A note from the Editor in Chief

Starting today and every Sunday thereafter, Page 1 will focus on what the PDI chair calls "radical optimism," a term she picked up from a book that attempts to explain why people aren't reading newspapers as much as they used to. It is no coincidence that we start serving optimism on the 21st anniversary of the Edsa People Power revolt, which really started out as a coup but, thanks to the people, it turned into a full-blown uprising that ousted the Marcos dictatorship. We were a people yearning to be free and doing something about it. Without firing a single shot. Without blood running in the streets. Edsa truly celebrates the best that the Filipino can be. And that's the good news any day of the week.

JOB *Market*

Check out

10,000 jobs today

WORLD / A21

Anna Nicole Smith's

ma, boyfriend prepare to fight it out in court over custody of her 5-month old daughter, now living in the Bahamas.

TALK OF THE TOWN / A14

What makes it a hot spot?

One of the world's richest biodiversity spots in the world is in our own backyard in Panglao, Bohol. A total of 150 to 250 new crustacean species and between 1,500 and 2,500 new mollusk species were found in 2004-05.

ENTERTAINMENT / H1

Who's Who going

to the Oscars on Feb. 26. PDI's man in Hollywood makes a list, including a forecast of winners by experts.

PHILIPPINE *Sunday* INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, February 25, 2007 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 79 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PANG-OSCAR AWARDS!

Anna Nicole judge: Drama king or weepy wacko

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA—CALL HIM THE COURTROOM DRAMA KING.

Some members of the legal profession and other court-watchers are cringing over the way Judge Larry Seidlin wept—no, sobbed—on live, national TV as he

ANNA/A6

GENUINE OPPOSITION

Candidates for Senate in alphabetical order

Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino III
Born Feb. 8, 1960, Manila; single **Education:** Ateneo de Manila, Economics, 1981. **Occupation:** Rep., Tarlac 2nd dist. 1998-2007 Deputy Speaker, 13th Congress. **Advocacy:** Democracy

Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano
Born Oct. 28, 1970, Mandaluyong; married **Education:** Ateneo Law School, 1997 **Occupation:** Rep., Taguig-Pateros, 1998-2007 **Advocacy:** Health, education

Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng
Born Dec. 18, 1952, Manila; 2 children. **Education:** St. Louis U & UP. **Occupation:** Senator 1992-2001; Rep., Quezon City 3rd dist. 1987-1992. **Advocacy:** Women's rights

Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero
Born Oct. 10, 1969; married. **Education:** Georgetown, Master's Int'l Law. **Occupation:** Rep. Sorsogon 1st dist.1998-2007. **Advocacy:** Human rights, environment

Panfilo "Ping" Lacson
Born June 1, 1948, Cavite; married. **Education:** Philippine Military Academy, 1971 **Occupation:** Senator, 2001-2007. **Advocacy:** Health, peace & order

Loren Legarda
Born Jan. 28, 1960, Manila; 2 children. **Education:** UP, Broadcast Communication. **Occupation:** Journalist; Senator, 1998-2004. **Advocacy:** Women, children, environment

John Henry "Sonny" Osmeña
Born Jan. 17, 1935, Cebu City; 1 child **Education:** UP, Public Administration. **Occupation:** Senator, 1987-2004. **Advocacy:** Good government, energy

Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III
Born Jan. 20, 1964, Cagayan de Oro; married. **Education:** UP Law. **Occupation:** Lawyer. **Advocacy:** Mindanao, youth, local government

Sonia "Inang Guro" Roco
Born July 20, 1944; widow, 6 children **Education:** Ateneo de Manila University, Master's Communication Arts, Social Psychology. **Occupation:** Educator. **Advocacy:** Education

Antonio "Magdalo" Trillanes IV
Born Aug. 6, 1971, Manila; married. **Education:** Philippine Military Academy, Naval Systems Engineering, 1995 **Occupation:** Soldier. **Advocacy:** Corruption, poverty

Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan
Born Aug. 24, 1963, Manila; married **Education:** Harvard, Master's Public Administration **Occupation:** Senator, 2001-2007. **Advocacy:** Human rights, good government

Manuel "Manny" Villar Jr.
Born Dec. 13, 1949, Manila; married. **Education:** UP MBA **Occupation:** Senator, 2001-2007. **Advocacy:** Entrepreneurship, livelihood

Gawad Kalinga goes worldwide

Bishop says GK new kind of People Power

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo, *in Manila*
and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.,
Inquirer Visayas

HOPE AND A BETTER life are the latest Filipino exports. Poor as it is, the Philippines would not be left behind in the sharing department.

Gawad Kalinga (GK), the highly successful housing and development project for the poor, is going global to improve the lives of the countless poor in other countries. This major step means familiar GK key people will have to be moved and new faces will emerge. That is all there is to it.

"*Walang iwanan.*" (Nobody leaves, nobody gets left behind.) This was what Gawad Kalinga's charismatic, outgoing executive director Antonio Meloto said to counter a nasty newspaper rumor that he was leaving GK, the flagship housing and development project of Couples for Christ (CFC), along with CFC founder and GK chair Frank

GAWAD/ A8

RETURN TO PLAZA MIRANDA: The Genuine Opposition holds the proclamation rally of its 11 candidates for the Senate in an historic square in the heart of Old Manila—Plaza Miranda in Quiapo. From left, Sonny Osmeña, Koko Pimentel, Sonia Roco, Makati Mayor Jojo Binay, United Opposition president; Nikki Coseteng, Loren Legarda, Alan Peter Cayetano, Sonny Rivera, representative of Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV; Ping Lacson, Noynoy Aquino and Chiz Escudero.

RYAN LIM

INSIDE PCGG 21 YEARS LATER

₱61B in ill-gotten wealth recovered, ₱57B to CARP

By Jerry E. Esplanada
and Daxim L. Lucas

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

MANDATED TO GO AFTER THE stolen assets of the Marcoses and their associates, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has so far turned over a total of P61,878,943,474.23 to the National Treasury.

Of this amount, about P35.8 billion was turned over by the Arroyo administration, P20.9 billion by the Ramos administration, P4.03 billion by the Aquino administration, and P1.08 billion by the Estrada administration.

The P61 billion "does not yet include the proceeds and escrowed dividends from Philippine

P61B/ A8

Hope steals show in real-life soap

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

IF HOLLYWOOD HAS ANNA NICOLE Smith and Britney Spears, the local media are going to town with the latest scandal in popular television host Kris Aquino's very public life—the alleged illicit affair of her husband, basketball star James Yap, and a beauty clinic receptionist identified as Hope.

According to TV host Lolit Solis, Hope also claims that Yap courted another girl named Anna in the same beauty clinic. "Anna was the cause of James and Hope's first big fight."

This new wrinkle in Kris' long running reality TV show-cum-telenovela life threatens to upstage this week's 21st anniversary of the People Power Revolution, which was ironically led by her mother, former President Cory Aquino.

HOPE/ A8

GO gets going as fighters at Plaza Miranda

By Volt Contreras
and Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER A CONVOLUTED PROCESS OF putting together former political foes under one banner, the Genuine Opposition (GO) presented its senatorial ticket last night in an inaugural show of force that had the candidates calling themselves a pack of "watchdogs" and "fighters."

GO held its proclamation rally at Plaza Miranda, the historic square in the heart of Old Manila. It tried to project a complete, unified front, putting up posters for 12 candidates despite the absence on stage of two and the late arrival of another.

It was expected early on that detained Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes and "guest candidate" Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan would not be coming.

Senate President Manuel Villar—another "guest candidate"—did not arrive until around 7:45 p.m., nearly three

GO/ A8

JOKER
VILLAR
Sipag at Tiyaga
Kiko Pangilinan sa Senado
PABAHAY PARA SA BAWAT PILIPINO

Electoral battleground shifts from Plaza Miranda to TV screen

REVIEW **By Nestor U. Torre,** *Editor, Saturday Special*

IN THE UNITED STATES, ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN WON AND lost on the TV screens for decades now. This helps explain the rise, from John F. Kennedy onward, of very personable presidential, senatorial or gubernatorial candidates, some exuding the charisma of movie stars—and some being movie stars themselves (Ronald Reagan, Arnold Schwarzenegger).

American candidates still go to the hustings and hold town hall meetings with voters, particularly during primaries. But much of their efforts to convince the public to vote for them are done by way of TV spots extolling their virtues and rebutting accusations of venality.

Expectedly, the practice is now being imitated or emulated on Philippine TV screens. There's been some delay, due to the huge expense involved and, let's face it, the fact that many candidates used to be old-style or just plain old politicians, whose wizened features and old-fashioned speech and campaign styles resisted effective showcasing on television.

One thing about Plaza Miranda: it affords a measure of aesthetic distance that blurs some imperfections; television doesn't.

However, now that some younger and more personable candidates are breaking into the ranks of "senatoriables," TV has finally become the medi-

ELECTORAL/ A6

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Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
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(All in exact order)

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern section of Central Luzon and Southern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/02/24/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Palace: RP far from being 'a Lebanon, West Bank'

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID THE PHILIPpines was far from being another Lebanon or West Bank because of the extrajudicial killings highlighted in the reports by the Melo Commission and United Nations Special Rapporteur Philip Alston.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said some media reports on the Melo Commission's report "seem to hint that the Philippines could even come under United Nations sanctions for the situation."

"That is a completely inaccurate portrayal of the international human rights system and a misleadingly selective quotation of the Melo report," he said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

Without naming the newspapers concerned, Ermita described some recent headlines as "inaccurate" for relying largely on "selective quotes" in reporting on the commission's findings.

"The international community has expressed its concern but what it condemns are the perpetrators. It recognizes that the government is taking action," said Ermita.

"Even the Special Rapporteur Philip Alston told the President and myself that the Philippines is far from the situations in Lebanon and the West Bank, where the UN issued critical statements," he said.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo has called for "truth and accuracy" in reporting the findings of the Melo Commission, expressing "confidence her government faces no international condemnation for the issue of extrajudicial killings."

The 86-page Melo Commission report, released by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye on Thursday, warned that the Arroyo administration may be held accountable under international law if the political killings remained unresolved and unabated, noting the growing international consensus on state responsibility for nonstate acts.

Ermita said the Arroyo administration, both by its statements and actions, "clearly does recognize the state's responsibility to protect its citizens."

He pointed out that the Melo report had stressed that "there is no official or sanctioned policy on the part of the military or its civilian superiors to resort to what other countries euphemistically call 'alternative procedures,' meaning illegal liquidations."

Meanwhile, the government and the military are not the only ones complaining about the report of Alston on the extrajudicial killings and human rights situation in the country.

Human rights activists in Zamboanga City and Sulu said Alston focused only on killings involving leftists and failed to include the killings of innocent people and the alleged war crimes committed by the military here.

"The incidents in Sulu were kind of left behind," said Claretian missionary Fr. Angel Calvo, executive director of Peace Advocates Zamboanga (PAZ).

Calvo said the military had been justifying some of the killings as part of the government's antiterror campaign.

He said the absence of human rights groups in Sulu may have been the reason the killings in the province were not given attention. *With a report from Julie S. Alipala, Jeoffrey Maitem, Dennis Santos and Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Oil firms cut prices

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS YESTERDAY slashed the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 30 centavos a liter, the fourth fuel price reduction since the start of the year.

The cuts brought premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P35.11 and P36.70 a liter, diesel to between P29.95 and P33.15 a liter, and kerosene to between P33.03 and P37.20 a liter.

First to implement the price cut, at 6 a.m., were Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Phil. and Unioil Petroleum Phil.

Total (Phil.) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. followed at noon.

The oil companies were able to reduce their prices despite the higher average international prices of oil in February for two reasons. First, January prices had softened enough to give them leeway to make the cut. Second, world prices are expected to go down further as the end of winter approaches.

The stronger peso also contributed to the price reduction.

"The latest oil price rollback reflects the gains accruing from a stronger peso," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said.

Since the start of 2007, the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene had gone down by a total of P1.80 a liter. The previous three price reductions took place last month.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude is now pegged at a February average of $55.16 a barrel, from $51.69 a barrel in January.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (Mops) benchmark for refined petroleum products is now placed at an average of $65.25 a barrel as of Feb. 22 from last month's $61.59 a barrel.

Mops-based diesel registered an average of $71.29 a barrel in the first 22 days of February, from an average of $68.45 a barrel in January.

In December, Dubai crude averaged $58.68 a barrel, Mops-based unleaded gasoline $68.16 a barrel, and Mops-based diesel $72.20 a barrel.

Team Unity on stump in Pangasinan sans JDV

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo and the 12 senatorial candidates of the administration's Team Unity descended on this vote-rich province on Saturday, drawing huge crowds in the capital and in Binmaley town.

But noticeable for his absence and failure to receive the President and the administration senatorial slate was Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., who represents the fourth district of Pangasinan and is president of the ruling Lakas-CMD.

An aide said the Speaker was in South Korea on official business. Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino, the Lakas-CMD provincial cochair, confirmed that De Venecia was in South Korea.

De Venecia was represented by his wife, Gina, at the campaign rally held at the Narciso Ramos Civic and Cultural Center here.

Ms Arroyo arrived at about 11 a.m. in Rosales town to hear Mass at the grotto of a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary. The Team Unity candidates then went to Binmaley for lunch.

"Thank you for making me win in 2004," Ms Arroyo told the crowd in Ilocano.

"The election in May is about our future. More jobs, peace and order, health care, clean environment," Ms Arroyo said.

Also at the rally were Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr., outgoing Gov. Victor Agbayani's wife, Dr. Jamie Eloise Agbayani, and Lambino.

Espino, who is running for governor, has been endorsed by the Nationalist People's Coalition and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi). The Lakas-CMD is still choosing between Agbayani and Lambino to be its official candidate.

Accident

During the motorcade, one of the vehicles in Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay's convoy hit another vehicle as they approached Binmaley.

"It was an accident. Fortunately, no one was hurt," Pichay said.

Actor Cesar Montano, TV host Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Sen. Ralph Recto, who is married to movie star Vilma Santos, were easily the crowd favorites. They were mobbed each time they got out of their vehicles.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said there was a need to develop new irrigation technologies for Pangasinan to maximize its rice production.

When he was agriculture secretary, Angara said he built irrigation facilities in the province for 5,000 hectares of rice fields, which he said was not enough.

"The search for new irrigation technologies is imperative because Pangasinan has three major irrigation and multipurpose dams along the Agno River and there is no room for costly giant dams," Angara said.

Pichay took a shot at the opposition, saying more difficulties lay ahead for the country if the opposition candidates were elected to the Senate.

"We will see nothing but destabilization moves to bring down the government in the next three years," he said.

The economy would go into a "tail-spin as investors will leave, job opportunities will disappear, prices of goods and commodities will skyrocket and there will be general malaise," he said.

Comelec goes cyber, sets up 3 blog sites

By Jerome Aning

NOW EVEN THE COMMISSION on Elections is using the Internet to reach as many voters as possible, both in the country and abroad.

James Arthur Jimenez, director of Comelec's Education and Information Department (EID), has set up three blog sites "inside the Comelec" (http://comelec.wordpress.com), "james jimenez" (http://jimenez.wordpress.com), and "Overseas Absentee Internet Voting (http://oaiv.wordpress.com) to help voters and the public in general find their way around the increasingly complex election structure.

"They are my brainchildren," Jimenez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

The blogs complement the official websites of Comelec (www.comelec.gov.ph) and EID (www.bagongbotante.com) which are often congested because of many loggers.

The blogs were created last year by Jimenez at WordPress.com, a free blogging service owned by the California-based Automattic Inc. He himself maintains the blogs at no cost to the Comelec.

Although unofficial, the blogs have been helping voters, candidates and mediamen all over the country in getting information from and transacting business with the Comelec and EID.

The transactions are "paperless" and the blog viewers from all over the country can do the printing of documents in the comfort of their homes or offices, saving them a trip to the Comelec office and the experience of having to fall in line and other bureaucratic hassles.

LOREN LEGARDA poses after her interview for the Inquirer.net podcast with some of the online site's reporters, Pocholo Gonzales of Creativoices Productions and, second from right, Javier Vicente D. Rufino, Inquirer.net editor in chief.

Loren: Podcasts level field

SENATORIAL CANDIDATE LOREN Legarda is all for the use of online tools like podcasts in the current election campaign, saying they served as an equalizer for candidates who did not have the financial resources to get their messages out but had "something to say."

Legarda, a former broadcast journalist, agreed technology was changing the face of journalism and opening new avenues to make Filipinos more aware of current issues.

"It has also made it maybe more affordable, and now that I know about this podcasting, I will probably do it more often and squeeze every aspect of it," she said during a podcast interview with Inquirer.net, the website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Legarda, who is running with the Genuine Opposition, was the guest on Episode 2 of Inquirer.net's Eleksyon 2007 podcast recorded last week at the website's offices.

Reminiscent of a radio broadcast, a podcast is an online audio file that could either be downloaded as an MP3 file or played online.

The term podcast is derived from the Apple iPod, although this is a misnomer because other MP3 players may be used to listen to podcasts, including desktops and laptops fitted with media players.

Listeners can also subscribe to podcasts which are made available as RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds so that they are automatically updated on new episodes.

Asked if she thought the traditional media had been giving equal coverage to the administration and opposition candidates, Legarda replied: "So far, so good… I think there's an effort to really provide equal air time."

29 NA TAONG MATAPAT AT
WALANG KUPAS NA
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SA BAYAN
MAGSAYSAY
MAGSAYSAY!
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The Preschool Promise

Raising children who love reading and learning.

Our Dream

Scholastic's dream is to make children happy in school so they may continue learning for the rest of their lives. Starting them young when they are most impressionable instills the love and habit of learning. The best way to achieve this is by teaching them how to read.

Children who learn how to read early on in their lives grow to love books. It becomes a part of who they are, enriching their lives in immeasurable ways.

Scholastic has made it an enduring commitment to educate children by expanding their horizons through reading. We nourish their young minds and in turn, nourish all the dreams that they discover for themselves.

Our Program

The ***Scholastic Preschool Literacy Program*** (PLP) lives the company's vision to reach and inspire every child to read more, learn more, understand themselves better and, ultimately, to lead better lives. It is designed to introduce children to the joys of reading and learning during the crucial stage when learning makes all the difference.

The Preschool Literacy Program makes teachers and parents easily achieve their goals for each child's academic success through a comprehensive approach to early childhood education. It uses (1) well-researched and validated materials developed by world-renowned literacy specialists, (2) integrated curriculum covering different subject areas, (3) proven strategies to teach reading, writing, speaking and listening, (4) teacher training by national and international literacy specialists, and (5) a parent-involvement program that engages parents to be actively involved in their children's education.

Three preschools sharing Scholastic's ideals recently signed up to the Preschool Literacy Program ---*Kiddos Beginnings*, located at Don Antonio Heights in Commonwealth, Quezon City, *Willow Tree Learning Center* located at Sta. Catalina St., Banaue, Quezon City and the *Chinese International School Manila*, the first Chinese international school in the country located at Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig . Kiddos and Willow Tree started using the Preschool Literacy Program early this year. CISM shall start using the program when it officially opens in August.

Our Promise

We raise children who have genuine love for reading. They are excited to go to school because they always look forward to new, exciting discoveries in the classroom. They have an understanding of themselves and the world. They can apply what they learn in school to every day experiences. They are confident in themselves and have an awareness of their roles at home and in the community.

Our Invitation

:Learning to read is an enjoyable, meaningful experience and Scholastic wishes to share the magic this experience creates with teachers, parents and especially children. We invite schools to start the journey with us by contacting us at *751-6714 or 817-4771*. You may also send an email to Scholastic, Inc. at *educ@scholastic.com.ph*.

SCHOLASTIC

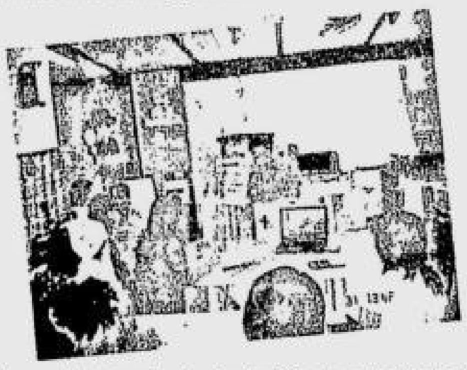
PRESCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

SCHOLASTIC Literacy Programs

Linda Warfel, Scholastic's VP for Education in Asia visits Kiddos.

Kids in Willow Tree Learning Center are treated to a read-aloud.

Willow Tree Learning Center and
Chinese International School Manila join the program.



Scholastic provides intensive teacher training to partner schools.

Preschool
Literacy
Program

Kiddos Beginnings pioneered the
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SCHOOL MANILA

Contact No.: 815-2476

Willow Tree Learning Center

Contact No.: 732-6668

Kiddos

Contact No.: 931-0777
Or 0917-THERESA

25 million
phone pals!
DAHIL SMART TAYO

Davide posting to UN 'legal, valid,' says DFA

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YESterday said the appointment of former Chief Justice Hilario Davide as Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the recall of Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr. were both legal and valid.

The Davide appointment conformed to the doctrine set by the Supreme Court in the case of *Matibag v. Benipayo,* said DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal.

The decision reads: "Whether the President chooses to nominate the prospective appointee or extend an ad interim appointment is a matter within the prerogative of the President because the Constitution grants her that power. This Court cannot inquire into the propriety of the choice made by the President in the exercise of her constitutional power, absent grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on her part ...."

Davide was nominated Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations back in March 2006 to replace Baja who had been recalled to the home office.

Davide took his oath as the UN Permanent Representative on Jan. 14, 2007, in Cebu City during the summit of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). He was to leave for New York and assume the post over the weekend.

However, the legality of his appointment remains the subject of a petition in the Supreme Court.

His confirmation at the Commission on Appointments has also been stalled because of opposition from relatives and allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada in the Senate.

It was Davide who as Supreme Court Chief Justice administered the oath of office as President to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after Estrada was toppled in a military-backed people power uprising in 2001.

Other parties, notably Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, have petitioned Malacañang to have Baja retained at the UN, ostensibly so he could serve out his term as an elected vice president of the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc).

Cristobal said the Constitution does not impose any conditions on the effectivity of an ad interim appointment, therefore, an ad interim appointment takes effect immediately.

He said an appointee can assume office at once and exercise, as a de jure officer, all the powers pertaining to that office.

On the other hand, the recall of Baja to the home office was also valid, Cristobal said.

As a political appointee, Baja served at the pleasure of the President, he said. There is no requirement for advance notice to Baja of his recall, as there would be if he were a career official, Cristobal said.

"Nonetheless, Baja was given formal and effective prior notice," he said, and proceeded to enumerate the chronology of events that he deemed constituted giving notice.

Cristobal said Davide was sworn into office on Jan. 14, in a public ceremony that was very widely reported in the media.

On Jan. 18, an order reassigning Baja to the home office was transmitted to him.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo personally informed Baja of the President's decision during his visit to New York in January.

Romulo informed the United Nations Secretary General of the President's appointment of Davide on Jan. 18, 2007. Baja was with Romulo on that occasion. *Cynthia D. Balana*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 25, 2007
1st Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

The Lord heard our voice.

Then the priest shall take the large basket from your hands and place it before the altar of Yahweh, your God, and you shall say these words before Yahweh, "My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt to find refuge there, while still few in number; but in that country, he became a great and powerful nation.

"The Egyptians maltreated us, oppressed us and subjected us to harsh slavery. So we called to Yahweh, the God of our ancestors, and Yahweh listened to us. He saw our humiliation, our hard labor and the oppression to which we were subjected. He brought us out of Egypt with a firm hand, manifesting his power with signs and awesome wonders. And he brought us here to give us this land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring and offer the firstfruits of the land which you, Yahweh, have given me."

2nd Reading: Romans 10:8-13

Believers in Christ.

True righteousness coming from faith also says: The word of God is near you, on your lips and in your hearts. This is the message that we preach, and this is faith.

You are saved if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart you believe that God raised him from the dead. By believing from the heart, you obtain true righteousness; by confessing the faith with your lips you are saved. For Scripture says: No one who believes in him will be ashamed. Here there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; all have the same Lord, who is very generous with whoever calls on him. Truly, all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Jesus was tempted.

Jesus was now full of Holy Spirit. As he returned from the Jordan, the Spirit led him into the desert where he was tempted by the devil for 40 days. He did not eat anything during that time, and in the end he was hungry. The devil then said to him, "If you are son of God, tell this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "Scripture says: People cannot live on bread alone."

Then the devil took him up to a high place and showed him in a flash all the nations of the world. And he said to Jesus, "I can give you power over all the nations and their wealth will be yours, for power and wealth have been delivered to me and I give them to whom I wish. All this will be yours provided you worship me." But Jesus replied, "Scripture says: You shall worship the Lord your God and serve him alone."

Then the devil took him up to Jerusalem and set him on the highest wall of the Temple; and he said, "If you are son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: God will order his angels to take care of you and again: They will hold you in their hands, lest you hurt your foot on the stones." But Jesus replied, "It is written: You shall not challenge the Lord your God."

When the devil had exhausted every way of tempting Jesus he left him, to return another time.

Commentary

Together we gather and collect the fruits of our belief and lives and come before the altar of the Lord, giving over to God the only gift of worship that God demands—us, our lives and relationships, our bodies and souls, our incomes, and our remaking of the world and all that has been made. And we rejoice that we are God's people and dwell in his presence. We gather, all of us, rich in diversity of nations, peoples, languages, races. And what binds us as one is the Word of God that is in our hearts, on our lips, and proclaimed to us daily. We are saved, and now it is up to us to live in gratitude and imitation of our crucified and risen Lord.

Jesus is tempted and we are tempted. We are confronted with Satan, the Hinderer in all the areas of our lives: income, security, daily needs, and the use of the world's resources. We must resist the powers and the glory of the kingdoms of the world: military might, prestige, selfish wealth, greed/avarice of resources and people, economic and political injustices, lies, lack of responsibility for choices. And we must refuse to be mastered by any sin: self-righteousness, thinking we're okay, we're trying and it is others who are the problem; or that if we do outward religious works we will be protected from harm. It is time to face the reality that we must live on the Word, adore the Trinity alone, and not test God, but bow in submission to God's will.

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Balikbayan box symbol of plight of OFWs – CBCP

By Jerome Aning

A "BALIKBAYAN" BOX IS NOT JUST A CONtainer of goodies from abroad but a poignant reminder that Filipinos have to seek work overseas so that they and their families can survive hard times.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI) has this in mind as the country marks the annual National Migrants' Sunday today.

"The 'balikbayan' box can very well be seen as the strongest symbol of Filipino migration; it continues to project the hope of many Filipinos that migration is the only way to improve their economic condition and that of their families," Maasin Bishop and ECMI head Precioso Cantillas said in a statement.

Some eight million Filipinos work and reside overseas; between 2,500 and 3,000 more leave the country daily for employment abroad.

The ECMI raised the Roman Catholic Church's "deep concern" about the social ills generated by overseas employment and migration.

Cantillas drew attention to the "new face of feminization" in the deployment of overseas Filipino workers, as more and more women leave their homes to become nurses, teachers, maids and entertainers abroad.

"The absence of mothers in the family has great ill effects in the upbringing of children," the bishop said. "As more 'balikbayan' boxes appear at our airports, our concern for the welfare of the migrants and their families, especially the children left behind, becomes [greater]."

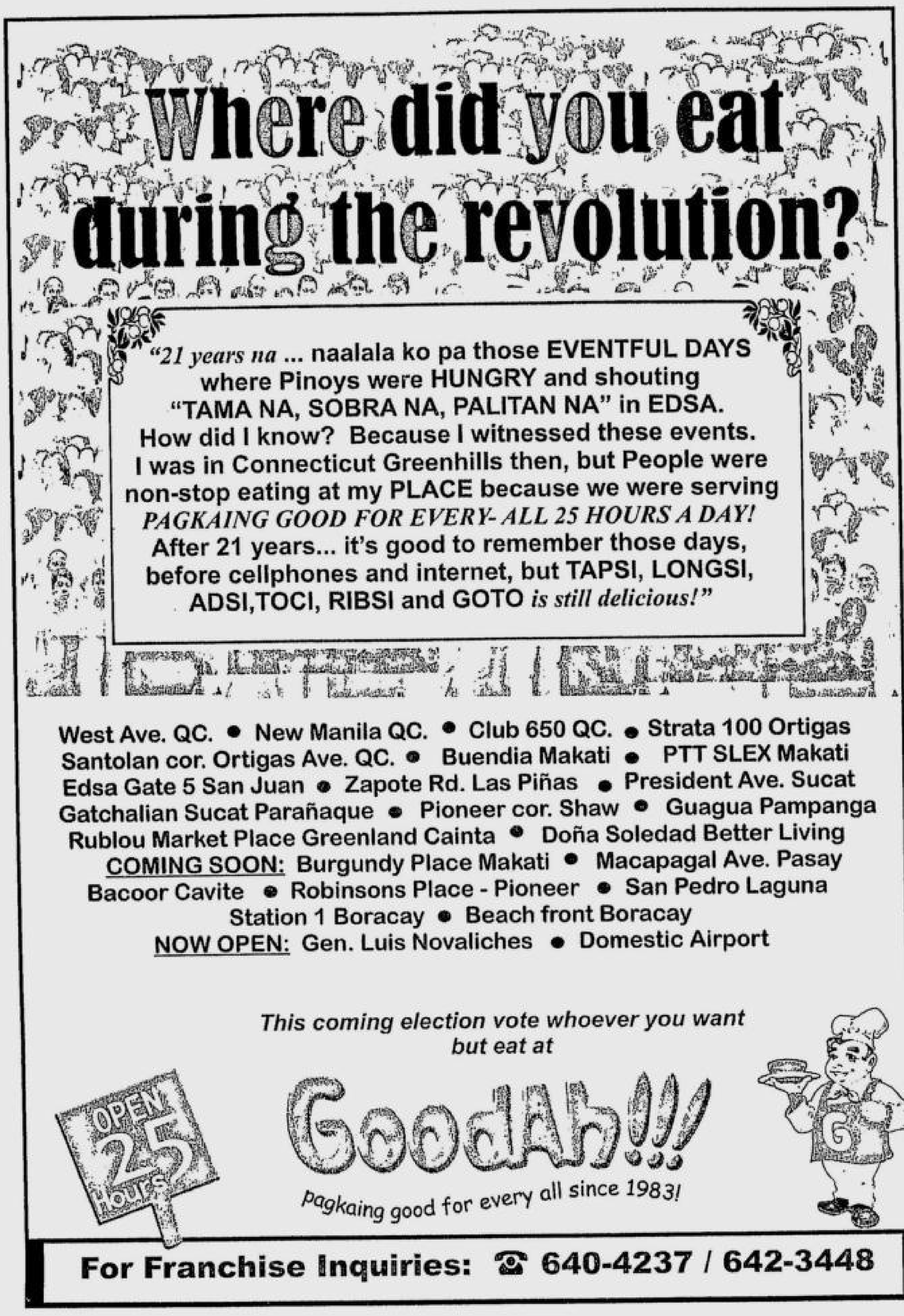
The ECMI called on the Church, society and the government to address the social effects of migration with "greater concern and dedication" by providing more awareness programs, direct paralegal services and counseling support to OFWs and their families, and strengthening the families' economic capacity.

It said that along with the Filipino people, it continued to hope for "sociopolitical and economic change" that would provide work opportunities for Filipinos, "so that they would not be forced to leave their homes at the expense of the proper growth of their families and children."

This change can happen if Filipinos vote wisely in the May elections, it added.

The ECMI also called for "quality legislation and programs" that would promote the benefits and welfare of OFWs and their families.

"After all, they are [providing] our country and society significant economic support through their work and sacrifices," it said.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DEAN VENICIO S. FLORES
Bar Review Director

Public called on to name top gov't employees for '07

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IS CALLING on the public to help in the search for the 2007 Outstanding Public Officials and Employees.

According to CSC head Karina Constantino-David, the CSC "wants to give credit to exemplary government employees who redefine service as an act of passion and commitment."

Through the years, the government's Honor Awards Program (HAP) has helped correct the public perception of incompetent, inefficient, dishonest and apathetic civil servants.

"Amid criticisms of the bureaucracy, there are those who stand out and go beyond the call of duty to contribute towards positive change," David said.

Any individual or organization may nominate an individual or group of government workers in the career or non-career service.

Nomination forms are available at all CSC regional and field offices nationwide or may be downloaded from the CSC website www.csc.gov.ph. The CSC regional and field offices will accept nominations up to March 31.

The awards have three categories: The Lingkod Bayan recognizes civil servants who made remarkable contributions that had national impact; the Dangal ng Bayan will be given to those who rendered extraordinary acts of public service or consistently demonstrated exemplary ethical or virtuous behavior; the Pagasa award recognizes contributions that directly benefited an agency.

Last year, the CSC recognized the extraordinary performance of 19 individuals and five teams representing various government offices.

Rebecca Presentacion, one of the awardees, was conferred the Lingkod Bayan, Dangal ng Bayan and Pagasa awards. She is a public school teacher who teaches the isolated Mangyans of Mindoro.

Other awardees included another teacher who single-handedly set up a class in her school for the visually impaired; a 30-year-old soldier who led several successful combat and civil military operations in war-torn Mindanao; a foreman in Batanes who fabricated a mini-crushing machine, conveyor and strainer for the nonstop reconstruction of typhoon-wrecked infrastructure in the island province; a teacher who, on his own, raised funds to install electricity in his 20-year-old school; a team of women at UP-PGH who set up a women's desk to assist victims of violence, and a team of doctors and nurses whose devoted service resulted in a zero maternal mortality rate and declining infant mortality rate in a very rural municipality in Apayao.

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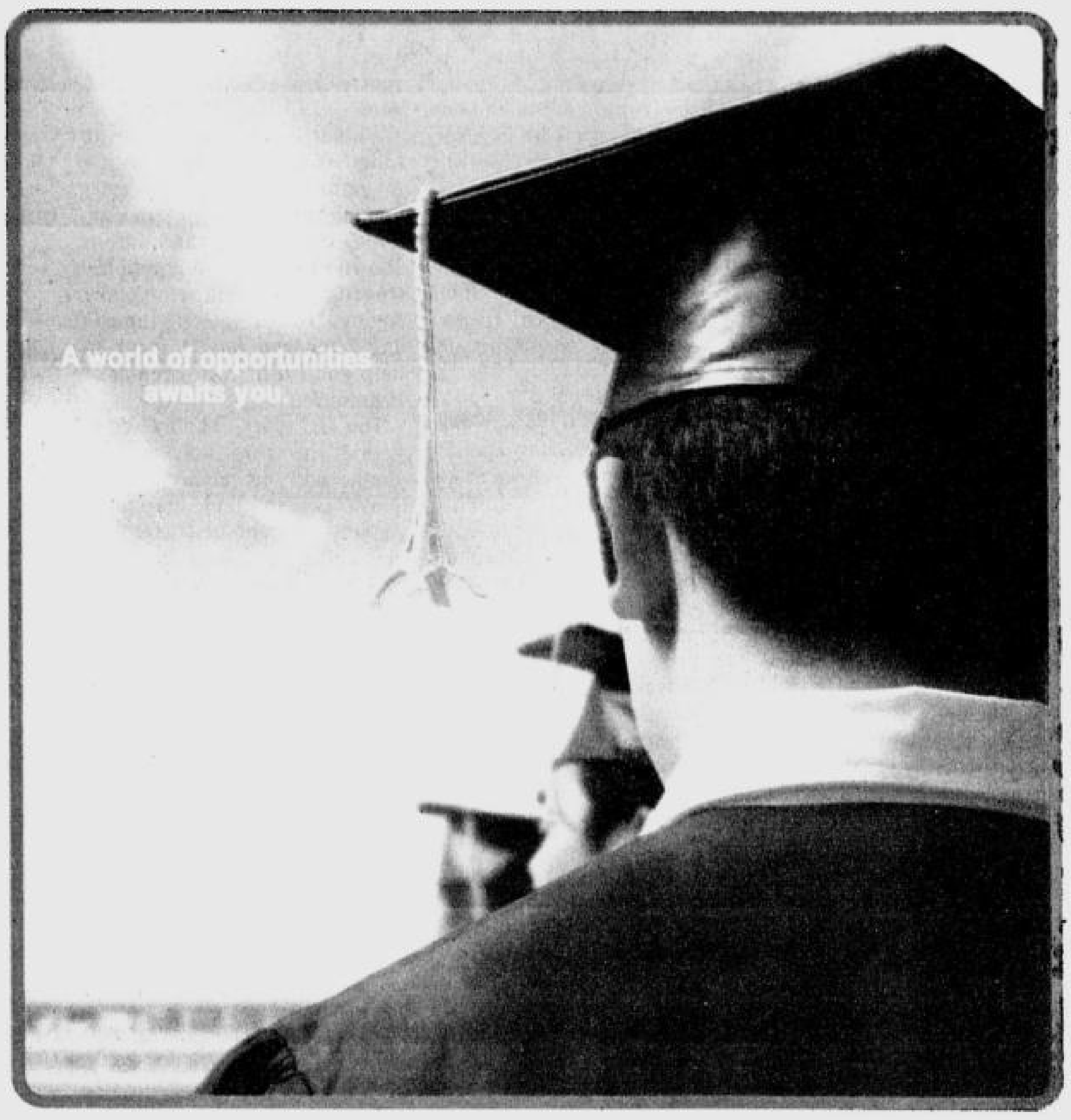
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DAHIL SMART TAYO

Electoral battleground shifts from Plaza Miranda ...

From page A1

um to beat in the arduous and expensive process of turning political wannabes into winners.

As of last viewing (Thursday), more than 10 senatorial bets have been using professionally produced TV campaign spots pretty much as the fulcrum of their electoral campaigns.

Instructively, we note that most of those spots are aired during the evening primetime hours. Telecast fees are more expensive during these hours, but viewership in the hundreds of thousands, or even millions, is assured, so on a cost-per-viewer basis, the airing is deemed well worth the hefty price.

Their objective may be the same (to get as many people as possible to know, like and want to vote for the candidate), but the campaign spots vary widely in terms of approach.

Spots for "mature" candidates generally stress experience and the confidence and trust it engenders. Thus, Tito Sotto is talked about as "everybody's Tito" who can be relied on to be the ordinary citizen's "*matapang na tagabantay* (courageous watchdog or defender)." His spot also stresses his being part of the Filipino "family," which can sleep better at night because he's psychically around!

For his part, Ping Lacson assures a good future ("*Si Ping para sa kinabukasan*") because his legislative focus will be on health, order, progress and education (HOPE). To soften the age issue, Lacson's spot shows him being lovingly embraced by a small boy—sweet.

Sonny Osmeña's spot banks on the decades-long record in governance and public service of the Osmeña family. Tessie Aquino-Oreta bats for free pre-school education to give poor children a fighting chance. Ed Angara's spot plays around with his name for upbeat effect (if you vote for him, *Ang Gara ng Buhay!*).

Alternative feel, less glossy

The most interesting spot in the "seniors" category is Joker Arroyo's anticorruption spiel. It has an "alternative" feel because it's much less glossy and less expensively produced than some of the others'.

Surprisingly, this "deficiency" ends up working to the candidate's advantage, because it denotes frugality, focus, directness, action and results.

The next batch of candidates is made up of "younger but not young" candidates.

Instructively, their spots are a mix of "mature" and "youthful" action tag lines, the results of which are sometimes not the best of both worlds.

Prospero Pichay's spot can be evaluated from different perspectives: First, he isn't as well-known as some of the other bets, so the spot simply introduces him to the nationwide viewing public. In that respect, the political commercial is successful.

Less effective

But there's also the perspective of being able to define him and his political program clearly and appealingly enough for viewers to want to vote for him—and the spot is less effective in this regard.

This is because it chooses to hinge its ability to persuade not on action points, but on a more ephemeral "*pangarap*" (dream, hope) theme: The candidate is shown reacting to poor people's travails and sympathetically saying, "*Pangarap kong tuparin ang pangarap mo* (I want to help you fulfill your dreams)." Hmmmm...

For his part, Manny Villar stresses his own impoverished youth, and his ability to rise above poverty and become a wealthy entrepreneur through his anthemic "*sipag at tiyaga—para umahon sa hirap.*"

He also manages a couple of dance moves with some kids, to "youthen" his image. Uh-oh.

More effective

Even more effective is Loren Legarda's "tuneful" spot that uses music more dynamically than other political commercials, while visually summing up her various concerns and experience, and her being "*No. 1 sa Senado*"—a reminder of surveys showing her leading the pack of "senatoriables" by a wide margin.

And let's face it, Legarda's breezy good looks light up her spot with a visual effervescence that less "aesthetically endowed" bets simply can't summon up, despite all sorts of technological and digital fine-tuning.

Granted, when it comes to legislative ability, this is neither here nor there—but, on TV, where visual appeal, accessibility and empathy are key, it's a plus point.

Also experienced but still exuding a youthful appeal is Ralph Recto, who bases his spot on the Filipinos' affinity for dance, and the need for disagreeing groups to unite and dance the same steps for national harmony and progress.

The 'K' candidate

For his part, Kiko Pangilinan takes his cue from the "K" in his name, to extrapolate positive traits like *Kapamilya* and *Kabalikat*, to convince voters that he's one with them in every way that counts.

As we watch the political commercials of Recto and Pangilinan, we can't help but remember that their respective wives, Vilma Santos and Sharon Cuneta, are popular stars. Thus far, they're missing from Recto and Pangilinan's initial spots, but when push comes to shove as the campaign heats up, each stellar spouse could (should?) make a persuasive appearance.

As for the "really young" bets, they're represented in our viewing survey by Mike Defensor and Migs Zubiri.

Defensor's spot, like Pichay's, feels like an "introductory" gambit: No legislative thrust is indicated, just a chummy series of shots of different types of people (vendors, a nun, even a comedian who's a Pacquiao lookalike) calling out to the candidate—"'Tol!" Is the greeting being primed to accentuate Defensor's youth and accessibility, or even to eventually prep him up to the level of an "Erap?"

Zhades of Zorro

Zubiri's spot is much more ambitious and over-hectic, whipping up a big *fiesta* and *parada* atmosphere, again full of people from different walks of life, representatives of the "*masa*" that the well-born, mestizo candidate wants to look more attuned to and concerned about.

For an exclamation point, the spot ends with "Z" for Zubiri, streaking like a bolt of lightning across the screen—zounds, zhades of Zorro!

The most effective spot in this last batch, in our view, is Recto's—because it makes savvy use of Filipinos' love for dance, while espousing the themes of unity, the need to work together for national progress, and virtues like "*talino, konsiyensiya at manindigan,*" learned from his distinguished elders.

Reviewing the most effective spots in our viewing survey—those for Arroyo, Legarda and Recto—we note that they share the virtues of relative directness, freshness and lack of bluster.

Expectedly, these virtues should impact positively on viewer-voters, particularly the growing numbers of Filipinos who say that they've had it up to *here* with the fripperies, flapperies and flip-flops of traditional politics, Philippine-style.

There's always Plaza Miranda

Thus, candidates who want to get more value—and results (namely, votes!)—for their advertising (millions of) pesos would be well-advised to shun the overly glossy and extravagant approach favored by some production people.

Instead, they should first dig deeper into themselves, rediscover the more seminal reasons that made them want to become public servants in the first place, and prepare themselves more fully for the challenging task ahead—before bringing in the slick image-makers or—transformers.

It would also help if they stayed away from Motherhood statements, lofty generalizations and facile inspirational captions, because they have long exhausted their capacity to impress, convince and move.

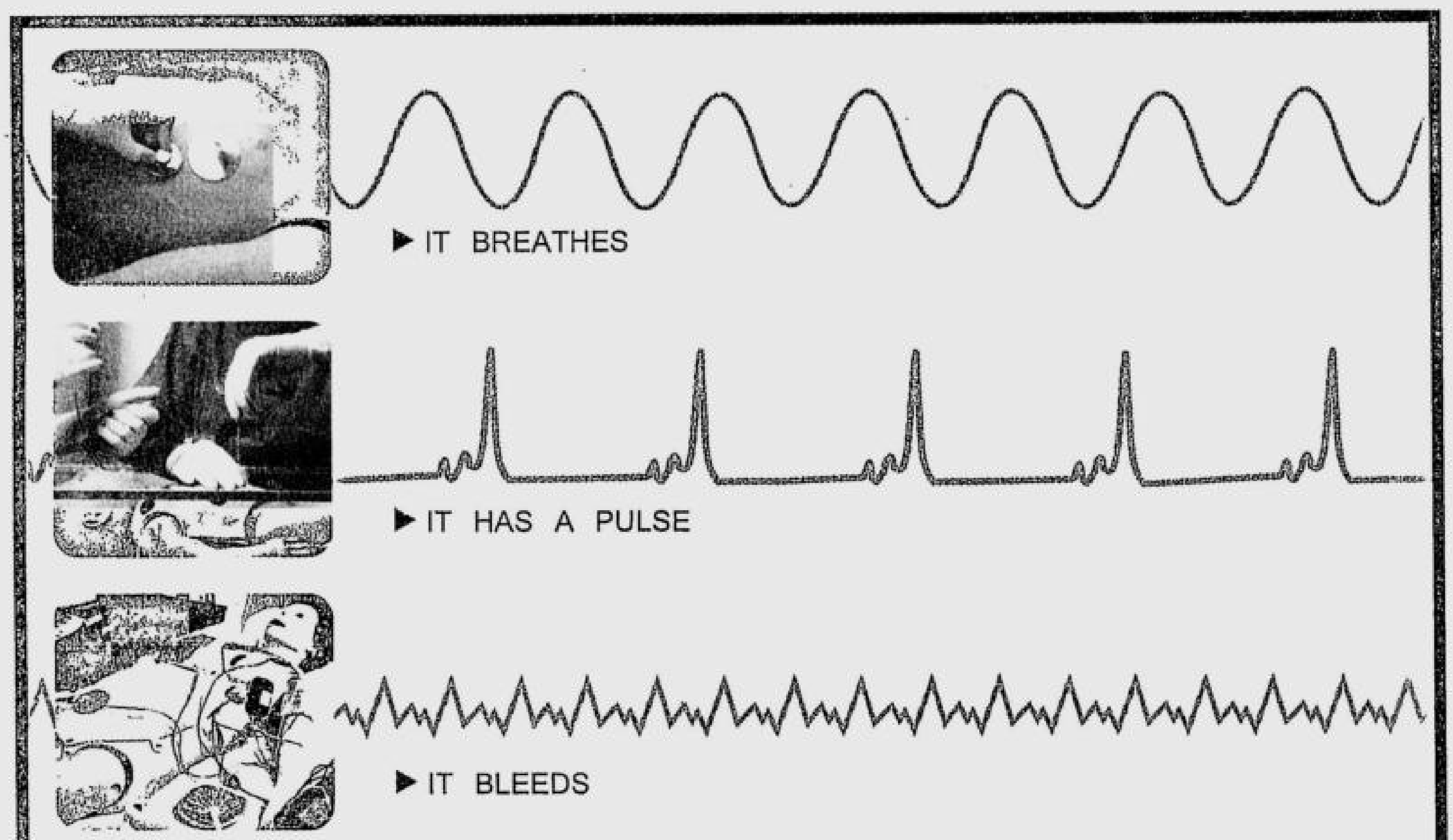
Rather, focus on why and how, and making viewer-voters feel that they have a stake in the worthy candidate's victory—enough to use his vote (and influence over other voters) to clinch it.

Candidates should further remind themselves that many voters feel once-burned, twice-shy, so they no longer take politicians at their word—no matter how beautifully it's articulated. Actions and achievements do speak louder than words.

And, credibility is all.

This is true also when it comes to casting the spots being shot. For instance, don't get a tall, stout kid to play an impoverished child, and don't feature a nun character who's obviously uncomfortable in her religious habit, which looks too big for her.

Well, those are details. It's more important to remember that political spots last for only a few seconds, so they can't say or do everything. Be rigorously selective, feature only a couple of points in each spot, and leave the longer explanations and expatiations to print ads, TV-radio interviews—or Plaza Miranda!



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Anna Nicole judge: Drama king ...

From page A1

announced a ruling in the dispute over where the former Playboy cover and Guess jeans model Anna Nicole Smith should be buried.

Some are accusing the brash former New York cab driver of showboating for the cameras, or worse, auditioning for his own courtroom TV show, with his one-liners, his personal asides, and his smart-alecky delivery during the six-day hearing.

They say that he let the hearing drag on way too long, that he made inappropriate jokes for a dispute over a body, that he acted as if it were all about him.

"He's like Judge Judy's wacky little brother," legal analyst Jefrey Toobin quipped on CNN.

'Weepy wacko'

The New York Post on Friday called him a "Weepy Wacko," while the Daily News asked, "How Low Can This Judge Go?" and referred to him as "Blubbering Seidlin."

One of the Miami's most celebrated defense attorneys, Roy Black, said of the circus-like scene in Seidlin's courtroom: "I sort of think it gives circuses a bad name."

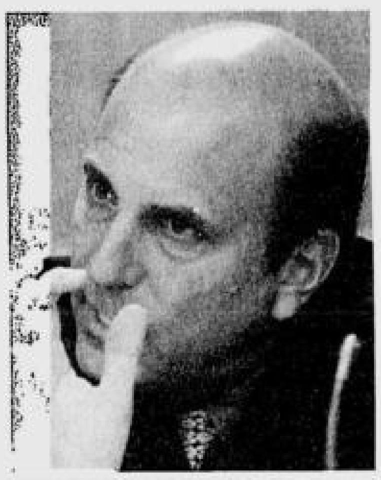
Black said he was torn between being entertained as a spectator and being horrified as a legal professional.

"I thought he was one of the most entertaining things I had ever seen. He could be a TV judge. He could be a stand-up comic. However, I think he makes a horrible judge," Black said. "He doesn't follow any of the rules or procedures."

I feel for you, mama

In court, the 56-year-old Seidlin talked about his wife and divulged the minutiae of his days, mentioning his morning swim and the tuna sandwich he was having when assigned the case. Lawyers became known by their home states of "Texas" or "California." The hearing often became a free-for-all, with the various parties talking at the same time.

On the last day of the hearing, Seidlin cut witnesses off altogether. From the bench, he freely aired his thoughts, including "I feel for you, mama" to Smith's mother. And just when everyone was ready for testimony to spill into one final day, he issued his ruling.


JUDGE LARRY SEIDLIN: Courtroom "clown," but made right ruling. AP

In the end, though, Black said he agreed with Seidlin's tearful ruling that custody of Smith's body go to the court-appointed lawyer representing her 5-month-old baby, Dannielynn, and he said he thought the judge's emotions were genuine.

Bizarre

"I believe that he sincerely tried to do the right thing," he said. "But while the end result is correct, it made a mockery of the system of justice."

The baby's lawyer ultimately decided to have Smith buried in the Bahamas, which was what Seidlin had fervently wished for from the bench. That decision represented a defeat for Smith's mother, Virgie Arthur, who wanted to bury the starlet in her native Texas.

One of Arthur's attorneys, John O'Quinn, said of the judge: "The entire nation was watching him and so he wanted to do the most bizarre thing he could."

John Thompson, a Coral Gables, Florida lawyer, said Seidlin made a mockery of the judicial process.

Carnival barker

"If this is how a Circuit Court judge is supposed to act," he said, "then the Florida Supreme Court should issue an order directing that henceforth sitting judges can wear not just robes but rather opt for the clownish outfit of a carnival barker."

Seidlin declined to comment Friday, saying it would not be appropriate. His only hope might be that the whole thing will eventually go away.

"You're all done with me," he said as he prepared to make his ruling on Thursday. "I'm not going to talk about this case ever again." *AP*

Despite US stand, PRC insists on pleading nurses' case

By Jerome Aning

THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION will still plead for a reconsideration of the decision of the United States Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools that all Filipino nurses who took the leakage-marred June 2006 licensure exams retake portions of the test, or forget about applying for a nursing job in America.

PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero will head a team of government officials and private sector representatives that will leave for the US tomorrow to "explain" the situation to the CGFNS, even though the commission had stated that its decision was final.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion disclosed that CGFNS head Barbara Nichols spoke to Rosero by telephone yesterday and confirmed that the panel's decision on the retake was final.

"We will try to make an appeal, we'll give them additional information in case they reconsider their decision," Rosero said.

CGFNS, which is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, issues the VisaScreen certificates to nurses wishing to work in the US.

Last Feb. 14, it required Filipino nurses who took the June 2006 exams to retake Test 3 and Test 5, whose questions were allegedly leaked to some examinees.

The Department of Labor and Employment, the PRC's mother agency, has taken the initiative to offer the retake. It has drafted rules that it hoped would be embodied in a proposed executive order that the President may yet issue on the matter.

Brion earlier called "the appeal delegation" unnecessary and unauthorized, highlighting the two officials' opposing stands on the leakage controversy.

DOLE insiders said Rosero insisted on the appeal "because she obviously only wanted to protect the credibility of the PRC and uphold the country's nursing licensure exams."

But Rosero said her mission was prompted by the request of nursing graduates who would be made to retake the exams.

"Of course as much as possible they don't want a retake because they have to prepare and review all over again," she said.

Brion said the retake would be conducted in coordination with the Board of Nursing.

"The retake will be held in a manner that would avoid any question about the validity of the licenses the PRC issued pursuant to the June 2006 nursing exam," he said in a statement issued yesterday. "This will also serve as a measure to enhance our nurses' employability."

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DAHIL SMART TAYO

₱61B in ill-gotten wealth recovered, ₱57B to CARP

From page A1

Long Distance Co. shares and additional remittances of the PCGG to the national government amounting to millions [of pesos]," the commission said in a statement.

It said that as of June 30, 2006, it had forwarded over P57.4 billion to the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), as required by law.

The PCGG still has to recover some P220 billion in ill-gotten wealth from the Marcoses and their cronies.

This year, the PCGG has targeted at least P27.07 billion under its "privatization plan for surrendered or recovered assets." Its 2008 and 2009 targets are P14.6 billion and P280 million, respectively, according to PCGG documents furnished the INQUIRER.

Without a doubt, the PCGG is one of the most maligned and least appreciated state commissions.

It is a frequent target of critics of sitting administrations and it has become a caricature of itself, for being the "antithesis of good government."

But very little is said about the achievements of this commission that was created on Feb. 28, 1986, by then President Corazon Aquino in the wake of the People Power Revolution that toppled the Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship.

Threefold mandate

"Despite all odds, we continue to faithfully and vigorously carry out our threefold mandate to recover, preserve and dispose [of] assets for our government and our people," the PCGG said.

According to Commissioner Ricardo Abcede, "what the public fails to see is that the PCGG managed to do all this on a very meager budget."

"Our annual budget is less than the pork barrel of a single senator and equivalent to the pork barrel of about two congressmen in a given year," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Official records show that apart from the cash, the PCGG had managed to recover a total of P22.7 billion worth of assets and properties since its inception.

This includes P15 billion worth of real estate seized from or surrendered by Marcos family members and their associates, P4.4 billion worth of shares of stock in various companies, an estimated P3 billion worth of assets and equipment in television networks and radio stations, and P160.7 million worth of assorted jewelry—all of which have been earmarked for privatization.

P52 for every P1

Compared to the value of assets recovered, official records show an impressive level of efficiency for the PCGG, which has been criticized for the excesses of its nominees in the boards of sequestered firms.

Since 1986, Congress has allocated a total budget of P1.7 billion for the PCGG, of which P1.5 billion has been spent for operations.

"When you compare this to the value of our recoveries, this represents a cost-to-recovery ratio of 1:52. That's a recovery of P52 for every P1 we spent. Is that a bad [level of] return?" Abcede said.

Nevertheless, the PCGG continues to struggle under the weight of poor public perception, especially regarding the slow progress of many of its forfeiture and sequestration cases.

"What people fail to realize is that we have to go through the legal process," Commissioner Nicasio Conti told the INQUIRER.

Conti, the PCGG's legal affairs chief, pointed out that the bottlenecks actually lay in the Philippine legal system.

"All these cases are with the courts and out of our hands. The Aquino administration decided that it will follow due process in all this, so this is the consequence of that," he said.

Legal eagles

Besides, many of the people whom the PCGG is up against are powerful, well-connected and have access to resources and legal expertise not normally available to the government, Conti said.

Certain Marcos associates can afford to hire the best legal minds in the country, while the PCGG has to contend with a revolving-door set of lawyers, many of whom have to familiarize themselves with the issues before they can make their case in court, he said.

In some cases, prominent defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza represents the respondents, Conti said. "On the other hand, we have a new set of lawyers every time."

PCGG legal director Jay Miguel said the commission's meager budget had also made it difficult to hire the best legal minds.

"The allowance for government lawyers is only P24,000," Miguel said, contrasting this with the expensive private lawyers hired by the respondents in PCGG cases. "And they're paid an appearance fee of P500 for every court session."

540 civil cases filed

Abcede said the PCGG was "finishing settlement [talks covering] some major cases that will bring additional revenues to the government," such as those involving Polygon, Equitable-PCI Bank, the late National Bureau of Investigation director Jolly Bugarin and Pimeco, as well as "foreign cases such as the Disini and Fe Roa Gimenez cases."

"And of course," Abcede said, "with PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and Commissioner Narciso Nario working together on the coconut levy cases, it is probable that we could have settlement and closure on this milestone case in the very near future."

The PCGG continues to go after an estimated P213.4 billion worth of assets held by Marcos associates, through 540 civil cases filed before courts at various levels.

And contrary to its critics' claims, the commission "still has a long way to go," said PCGG information officer Nick Suarez.

He said President Macapagal-Arroyo "practically extended the life" of the commission with the issuance in May 2005 of Executive Order No. 432, which "transferred the powers, functions and duties of the defunct Ad Hoc Fact-finding Committee on Behest Loans to the PCGG."

Under the EO, the commission was tasked to conduct an inventory of all behest loans, identify the borrowers who were granted "friendly waivers" as well as the government officials who issued such waivers, and pursue legal action for the recovery of deficiency claims arising out of behest and non-behest loans that had been defaulted.

Up for privatization

This year, the PCGG has earmarked for privatization the Piedras Petroleum Corp. property in Mariveles, Bataan, worth nearly P70 million; pieces of real estate in Legazpi City worth P39 million; and landholdings in Iligan City and Naga City amounting to P16.4 million and P11.9 million, respectively.

Also to be privatized are shares of stocks in, among others, Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp., 111,415 shares valued at P24.1 billion; Philippine Overseas Telecom Corp., 4,727 shares worth P1.41 billion; Eastern Telecom Phils. Inc., 2.65 million shares estimated at P450.8 million; and Meralco "B," 23.5 million shares valued at P465.3 million.

Add to the list Marcos "jewelry collections from Hawaii and Malacañang" worth at least P137.5 million and P23.25 million.

By law, the proceeds of the commission's recovery efforts must be channeled to the CARP.

Thus, the PCGG said, its remittances had been used to fund the construction of farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation and port-harvest facilities, and school buildings, and the establishment of rural electrification, potable water supply, and credit assistance.

Example

By its own account, the PCGG has been upheld as an example in other countries' efforts against their own former dictators.

It pointed out that the governments of Russia, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq and Iran had all tried but failed to recover the deposits of former rulers lodged in Swiss banks.

According to the PCGG, the Philippines is the only country in the world that has succeeded in recovering ill-gotten wealth stashed in Switzerland. And yet its efforts and achievements remain largely unrecognized locally, it lamented.

"It requires no effort to be discouraged [working] here," Conti said. "But we go on."

GO gets …

From page A1

hours after the rally began. He climbed onstage with other latecomers, like Senators Franklin Drilon, Serge Osmeña, Loi Ejercito and her son, Jinggoy Estrada.

'Still status quo'

The reported plan by GO elders to ditch and replace Pangilinan, who had expressed a reluctance to campaign with the rest of the pack, did not materialize.

In a phone interview earlier in the day, GO spokesperson Adel Tamano said, "it's still status quo until the [coalition] elders decide."

He dismissed as "speculative" reports that Pangilinan would be replaced in the GO roster either by actor Richard Gomez, detained ex-senator Gringo Honasan or Zosimo Paredes of the Ang Kapatiran party.

"As you can see, his (Pangilinan's) name is still there," Tamano said, referring to the banners on the Plaza Miranda stage. "We will not hesitate to say 'Vote for Kiko,' and we are still hoping that he will [come] or send a representative."

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, the GO campaign manager who worked the crowd last night, shrugged off Pangilinan's absence.

"*Kung wala, eh di wala* (If he's not here, then that's that)," said Ejercito, who remarked on the side that GO could not even afford a better stage at this point because of funding constraints.

"We can't let one person delay our campaign. We have 11 other candidates," he said, claiming that the matter about Pangilinan was not even discussed at a meeting of GO leaders at around noon in Greenhills, San Juan.

The evening's highlight proved to be the videotaped message of ousted President Joseph Estrada, wherein the acknowledged leader of the United Opposition exhorted the crowd "not to forget what happened in the last election."

Estrada was referring to the "*salot* (plague)" that was "Hello Garci," the alleged 2004 election fraud scandal that President Macapagal-Arroyo survived but continues to provide ammunition for her critics.

The mere mention of "Hello Garci" drew the wildest roars of the night.

"Don't let them take away our vote. Don't let the Senate fall into the hands of Malacañang," Estrada said in a five-minute spiel delivered in Filipino and English.

An estimated 6,000 people packed Plaza Miranda (more conservative estimates put the crowd at 3,000) —mostly members of urban poor groups. The free meals, money and entertainment apparently lured a number of them to the proclamation rally.

Some refused to answer when asked if they had come of their own volition, but many admitted that they were merely taking advantage of the free food and P250.

"It would be a waste; my child can use it as allowance. Besides, there's free food," said Aling Lydia, 56, who stood among the supporters of candidate Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng.

Ang Kapatiran bets

"I don't care about politics, I'm just here to watch the show. I heard TV personalities and sexy dancers will be here to entertain us," said Pedro Isidro Lumotan, a 62-year-old carpenter from San Andres, Manila, who was holding a poster of candidate Loren Legarda.

By the end of the rally, nobody had mentioned the name of Pangilinan on stage.

At Club Filipino, the new party, Ang Kapatiran, proclaimed its three senatorial candidates: Dr. Martin Bautista and lawyers Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison.

Businessmen, academicians, students and housewives attended the proclamation. *With reports from Tina G. Santos and Jerome Aning*

Gawad Kalinga goes global as new People Power

From page A1

Padilla.

Meloto said the spin on his and Padilla's change of status "had been given malice, whatever the reason."

Meloto and GK were twin awardees for community service of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation in 2006. Meloto was the INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year for 2006.

Meloto and Padilla will now work as "roving ambassadors-at-large or ambassadors of goodwill" for GK's advocacies. This means traipsing the globe to "unleash the Filipino spirit of hope."

New kind of People Power

To Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, this is the new kind of "people power" the country needs as it commemorates the 21st anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolt.

The Jaro prelate said the 1986 popular uprising could no longer be commemorated the way it was done in recent years.

"The memory of the people about People Power has diminished. The children who are 20 years old now do not really know what people power was," Lagdameo said at Thursday's turnover of a housing project which GK helped build for church workers in Jaro. (*See related story in Inquirer Mindanao, Page A15.*)

"I feel there is a shift in image in our celebration of People Power now. That image or icon now is Gawad Kalinga," said Lagdameo.

The new work Meloto and Padilla have taken on upon themselves is both awesome and daunting.

Expanding advocacy

"With so many opportunities to upscale, upgrade and go global," Meloto said, "I have to free and detach myself from operational matters and fund management."

Luis Oquiñena takes over as GK executive director. Jose T. Tale takes over Padilla's post as GK board chair.

"I will now focus on building the GK global network of partners and expanding advocacy abroad," Meloto told the INQUIRER. He said GK would start projects in developing countries such as India, Nigeria, South Africa and Nicaragua.

GK has already built more than 100,000 homes all over the Philippines and in Southeast Asian countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. More than 1,000 GK communities have been built in 350 towns and cities.

And there's enough donated land for 300,000 more houses to be built.

Global recognition

Going global is part of the GK777 campaign that means building 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years by year 2010.

Last Feb. 14 and 15, Singapore President S.R. Nathan who was on a state visit, attended GK events in Baseco in Tondo and Calamba, Laguna. He extended his country's support for more homes in Laguna, to the typhoon victims in Sorsogon, and for education and health programs in the Singaporean-funded GK Village in Baseco.

Nathan said his country also wanted to help children in GK communities in Muslim Mindanao.

Previous to this, Meloto said, the Canadian government, particularly in the provinces of Ontario and Alberta, had given support to the mudslide victims of Southern Leyte. AIG USA, Fedex and UPS were among the multinationals that contributed to local GK communities.

To date, more than 300 corporations have supported GK projects.

Rebuild the motherland

Meloto added that the city of London, through the Lord Mayor, also gave aid for the victims through GK. This was after receiving positive feedback from British GK volunteer Dylan Wilk, British Ambassador Peter Beckingham and his wife Jill, as well as from executives of British corporations in the Philippines that had adopted their own villages.

GK donors are tax-exempt in the United States, Canada and Australia. It has a US partner, Ancop, to which Fil-American donors could channel donations.

"Filipinos abroad are coming home to help rebuild their motherland," Meloto enthused. "Many Filipino doctors and other health professionals in North America are supporting us by adopting GK communities. Corporate executives who have retired are volunteering their expertise, some even give up their promising careers to work with GK full time. Ateneo University and the University of the Philippines are putting up the GK Institute for the training of volunteers, caretaker teams and the local government unit (LGU) partners for township development."

Family and church estates

Not to be outdone are the counterparts at home who have put in not just sweat equity but their properties as well. The Lopezes of Iloilo, the Aranetas of Negros, the Laurels of Batangas—these old and landed families have given their share. The Benitezes of Laguna recently gave 18 hectares, with former Bayanihan dancers donating 100 houses.

Hope steals show in real-life soap opera

From page A1

Sordid details of the alleged love triangle have made the media rounds over the past two weeks. Tabloid writers and radio commentators are having a field day dissecting every reported juicy morsel: From the illicit lovers' preferred sexual positions to cell phone code names (Yap is Big Bird; Hope, Hopia; and Kris, Kumander or Bossing).

The seven-month-pregnant Kris, who kept her 2005 marriage to the basketball star a secret for a year, was rushed to the hospital on Thursday, just days before the announced tell-all, show-face interview with Hope on the GMA-7 talk show "Star Talk" yesterday and on "S-Files" today.

Hope admitted that she had an affair with Yap on "Star Talk."

Before this, Kris' two previous—and equally controversial—relationships with actors Phillip Salvador and comedian and former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez also grabbed top media billing.

TV host Boy Abunda, Kris' friend and co-host of the rival ABS-CBN talk show "The Buzz," told the INQUIRER on Thursday that the "false labor and stomach pain were caused by stress."

Even before you could say *ménage a trois*, the Internet churned out a hefty serving of Hope-related jokes.

Sample: Yap's camp appealed to GMA 7 not to air Lolit Solis' interview with Hope on "Star Talk." If canceled, Hope would ask the network to air her story on "Wish Ko Lang" instead.

Funnily enough, there is a tinge of truth to this joke. In a phone interview, Solis told the INQUIRER on Friday that she had received "a lot of requests not to air the interview, particularly from [Regal Films] producer Lily Monteverde."

"*Naaawa siya kay* Kris [She pities Kris]," Lolit related.

Monteverde, whose son Dondon is Yap's manager, confirmed this with the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "I talked to [GMA 7 executive] Wilma Galvante," Monteverde said. "[The network] was very accommodating. But it was explained to me that an announcement had already been made, so the Hope interview couldn't be pulled out."

In any case, the interview would (hopefully) be "tame," said Monteverde. "I am speaking as a mother. I feel for them [Kris and James]. I'd hate to add more fuel to the fire."

Solis said that they were not planning to air incriminating pictures of James that Hope allegedly has in her possession. Cell phone pictures of a half-nude James with his hands on Hope's shoulder which were shown yesterday on "Star Talk" were said to be the "tame ones."

"I saw the other pictures and the explicit text messages with my own eyes, so I am sure Hope's story is solid," Solis said.

Lawyer Raymond Fortun, who is representing Hope's former employer, the Belo Medical Group, told the INQUIRER on Saturday: "We made no effort to stop the interview. We respect everyone's right to freedom of expression, but at the same time people have to remember that their actions have legal consequences."

Hope left her job. But Fortun confirmed that the clinic is contemplating legal action against "certain personalities who masterminded Hope's sudden turnaround."

"When she was confronted by her supervisor, she denied the affair and tendered her resignation. Now, Hope is claiming the opposite. She is obviously talking to some people … There's a conspiracy," said Fortun.

Who are these conspirators?

"No, we are not referring to GMA 7. Not the interviewer. Not the program. These people are just doing their jobs. I'm referring to people who are controlling Hope," Fortun asserted.

"We have leads, first-hand information, and we will file a case against them in the proper legal forum."

GMA 7 Corporate Communications issued an official statement on Friday saying that the Hope interview would go on as scheduled.

"As we speak, we've just secured a new interview with Hope, wherein she would reveal her identity and show her face on 'S-Files' [today]."

In the "Star Talk" interview, Hope had her back to the camera, although some cropped face shots were also shown.

Abunda said he would watch Hope's interview "so that I would know how to react. Suffice it to say that we will fight fair and square."

Added Abunda: "I want to find out, what's her agenda?"

Solis said that Hope, whom she described as "street smart" and a lookalike of sexy star Hazel Espinosa, was "a woman scorned."

"She approached GMA 7 because she wanted to set the record straight: That she is not a stalker, and that it was James who flirted with her," Solis said.

To make matters worse, "when Hope lost her job, James didn't offer to help her," Lolit recounted.

Asked if "Star Talk" extended financial help to Hope in exchange for the interview, Solis candidly remarked:

"We just gave her the usual honorarium that we give to guests. The biggest help we're giving her is that we've decided to air her side."

According to sources in TV networks, entertainment talk shows usually pay guests P30,000 for exclusive interviews.

Hopeless Hope

"I don't think Hope wants to join the movies," Solis said. "She told me: 'After all this, Kris still has a future. James still has a future. But I don't have any future. People think I'm just a home wrecker.'"

Hope is hopeless, Lolit said, "She confided in me: 'No one will hire me. I'd rather work abroad and start anew.'"

Contrary to Hope's opinion, Yap's future is not 100 percent secure, a lawyer told the INQUIRER.

In an interview on "The Buzz" last Sunday, Kris insisted that the "morality clause" in her different advertising contracts was not the reason she chose to remain married to Yap.

But what about Yap, who has just been signed up as endorser of a leading bakeshop? A lawyer told the INQUIRER that the morality clause in his contracts could prove to be a major headache if the Hope affair is proven true.

"Not unless he wants to endorse Kinky Cakes," Abunda joked.

Hero or heel? Marcos guard only wanted bloodless coup

By Fe Zamora

WAS IT A COUP d'etat or a People Power revolution?

Even Malacañang was confused, according to Police Director Edgardo Doromal, a former Presidential Guard who was recruited to join the coup plot two months before the 1986 Edsa revolution

Doromal played a controversial double-role in the historic events that would unravel on Feb. 22-25, 1986. Soon after his recruitment, Doromal reported the plot to Presidential Security Command (PSC) chief, Col. Irwin Ver.

Later, when then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos, then vice chief of staff, declared their withdrawal of support from President Ferdinand Marcos, and as people gathered on Edsa in response to the call of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, "Colonel Ver asked me if People Power was Plan A and the coup d'etat was Plan B."

"But really, I did not know. I had no idea about People Power. Gringo only talked about a coup," recalled Doromal, then a major in the Philippine Constabulary and commander of a 120-man unit under the PSC. His duty was to secure the Palace perimeter.

Doromal said Ver even suspected that "I was recruited purposely to leak the coup, but the real plot was a People Power revolt at Edsa."

"I also thought that maybe it was like that (that I was used as a ruse). But Edsa couldn't have been Plan A. It was really spontaneous," he said.

According to Doromal, he learned of the plan from Enrile's own security chief, Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, during a meeting at Grandma's Inn restaurant in Libis, Quezon City, sometime in January 1986. His academy classmate had invited him to lunch; Honasan, Lt. Col. Red Kapunan and several other RAM (Reform the AFP Movement) members joined in later.

He said it was a "very casual and candid conversation " about the political situation. They wanted to know how he felt about the Marcos administration.

Back in Malacañang, Doromal, who had been with the PSC since 1981, felt a tinge of guilt over the meeting. RAM had already been identified as an anti-Marcos group.

"I felt trapped. I didn't want us in the military to be killing each other, that's why I decided to tell Colonel Ver," he said.

Ver ordered him to just attend the meetings and "report whatever developments you can gather."

He said he met with Honasan on three occasions at a radio station in Sta. Mesa, about five minutes away from Malacañang.

In one of those meetings, Honasan instructed him to prepare a scale model of Malacañang to guide what would be an assault on the Palace.

Doromal's assignment was to allow the assault units to enter the Palace compound through a designated point along the Pasig River behind it. The assault teams would be led by Honasan, Kapunan and Maj. Saulito Aromin, his classmate at the PMA.

Based on his report to Ver, Malacañang planned a massive defense, which included posting snipers and planting mines around the Palace.

Doromal then alerted Honasan's group about this by telling them about a "security beef-up" at the Palace.

"It was going to be bloody," he thought. This gave him sleepless nights.

But Doromal said he was not sure if he was the plot's "main leak." General Ver was in intelligence—"he had many sources of information."

Reports about Doromal's role spread through the PSC soon after the plot was made public in a press conference on Feb. 22. According to Doromal, he became the object of hate among his colleagues in Malacañang. "They called me *ahas* (snake, traitor)."

"There are those who say that I betrayed RAM and there are some who say I betrayed General Ver. But as far as I was concerned, I did the right thing. I didn't want soldiers to be fighting against each other," he said.

In February 1986, the INQUIRER published the "inside story" on the February 1986 coup, and Doromal was identified as the RAM recruit who ratted on his comrades.

Doromal said he confronted Honasan about this. "He assured me that everything was okay with the group, and that they were even thankful because bloodshed was averted," he said.

2 soldiers killed in Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Unidentified gunmen shot dead a Marine in Lamitan, Basilan, barely four days after a teenager, who was related to a ranking Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) official, died in the crossfire between two groups of soldiers in Indanan, Sulu.

But the authorities could not say if the two incidents were related.

Lt. Col. Rudy de Bellen, operations officer of the Marines Forces South Command (Marforsouth), said Cpl. Rodel Algaba was with other Marines when he was shot by two motorcycle-riding gunmen at around 9:45 p.m. in Lamitan on Friday. The suspects managed to get away.

De Bellen said they were also looking at the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf.

As this developed, the wife of Pfc. Jesus Pecajas, who was killed in an incident in Barangay Tagbak in Indanan, said she received a note of condolence from the 60th Infantry Battalion, which indicated that her husband had died in an ambush.

But a joint investigation conducted by the military and the MNLF in Sulu had indicated that Pecajas, along with 14-year-old Abdulhakim Abbilul, was killed during a mis-encounter between two groups of soldiers.

Five others, including four Scout Rangers, were wounded in the incident which was blamed on "darkness and panic." *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Health or wealth?

EDITORIAL

THAT WAS NO LOBBY, JUST "ASSERTIVE ADVOCACY." And it is not about money, but the Filipino people's health and safety. That is how the Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) explained the efforts of its members, which include major multinational drug companies operating in the Philippines, to block the passage of a bill that basically seeks to bring down the prices of medicines through parallel importation.

Four PHAP representatives attending the special session at the House of Representatives Wednesday were assertive all right, and the congressmen interpreted their intervention as nothing less than "brazen lobbying." The congressmen were debating the proposed Cheaper Medicine Act of 2007, when a lawyer of one multinational firm slipped a note to Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin asking him to question the quorum—a move that would have terminated the deliberations on the bill. Locsin instead told his colleagues about the note and they moved to expel the PHAP representatives from the session hall. He said the drug lobby group had jumped to the "catastrophic conclusion" that his sympathies were with them.

The spokesman of PHAP later said it was incorrect to say that the group was lobbying against the bill. PHAP was only engaging in "assertive advocacy," he said. "Public health is primary here, not the loss of profit."

That may not be easy to swallow for a public that is becoming increasingly aware of how it is made to pay much, much more for the same medicines than their Asian neighbors. For instance, the painkiller Ponstan (500 mg) is sold here at P21, but the same tablet costs only P2.61 in India and P1.38 in Pakistan. The anti-asthma drug Ventolin goes for P315 a puff here, while it costs only P123 in India and P62 in Pakistan. The anti-hypertension drug Norvasc (5 mg) is priced here at P45, but it costs only P5 in India. The Philippine International Trading Corp. has a long list comparing prices, here and abroad, of widely used medicines.

How did this happen? There are two main reasons, according to INQUIRER columnist Michael Tan. First, India refused to join the international patent system, saying it was unfair to developing nations. This allowed Indian companies to make the same medicines, using processes different from those of the patent holder. Then it helped develop a national drug industry which now competes with the multinationals, driving prices down. Both of these didn't happen in the Philippines.

The multinationals offer a third reason: they have to recover the huge investments they made for research and development of their products.

Of course, companies are not established for charity. But if they have to recover their R&D costs and turn in some profits, why should they squeeze them out from a poor country like the Philippines?

That is the inevitable conclusion anyone would reach, given the fact that medicine prices here are among the highest in Asia. It is a practice that turns on its head the idea of socialized pricing that is widely accepted in the field of medicine. And worse, it deprives the poor of needed medication by putting prices out of their reach.

PHAP says it has no quarrel with the bill's primary purpose of making cheaper medicines available in the local market; it just wants to ensure that such medicines are "of good quality . . . effective and, most of all, safe." Is it saying that if the government buys branded medicines manufactured by the subsidiaries of multinationals abroad, say, in India (which is part of the parallel importation program), that is no guarantee that such medicines are good, effective and safe?

PHAP should go beyond making pious declarations of concern for the people's health. Such claims are difficult to believe unless its members bring prices down to levels that are comparable with those prevailing in other countries of Asia. Such claims are an insult to the intelligence when its members effectively deny the poor access to life-sustaining drugs by pricing them beyond their reach and by trying to block the efforts of the government and Congress to make the medicines affordable.

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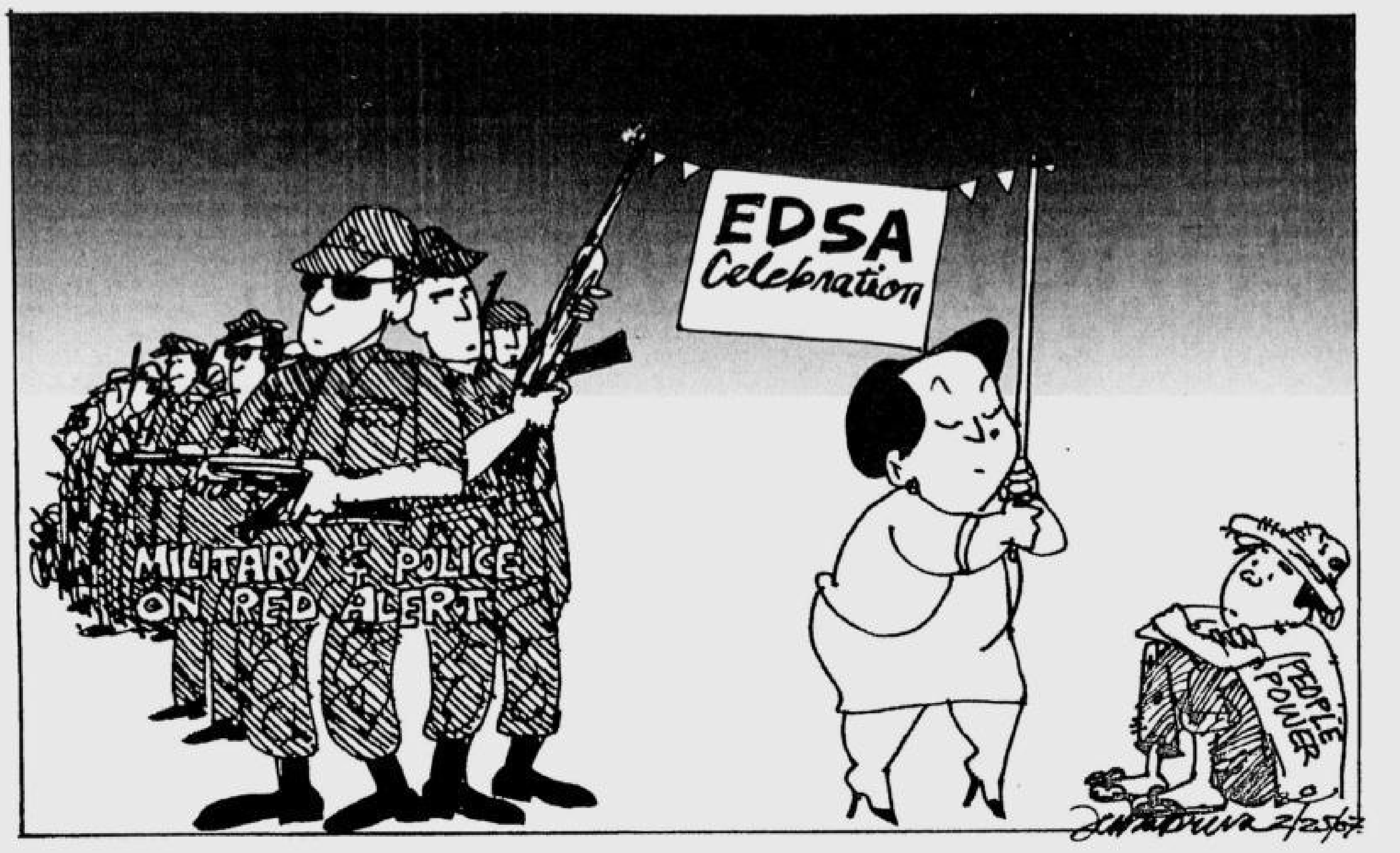

Convenient turncoatism

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WHAT IS NOTICEABLE ABOUT THE ADMINistration senatorial slate is the lack of loyalty among some of its candidates. It is noticeable but not strange, given the lack of political morality, itself an adjustable concept among present-day politicians. Change of political affiliation is not considered a sign of disloyalty but a pragmatic excuse for political convenience.

The fact that such a change involves, at least in theory, the abandonment by the turncoat of principles he had firmly supported earlier but will now assail as a new member of the opposite party, is not regarded as a blemish on his character. He is just being politically practical, never mind his mental dishonesty.

There was a popular politician before who shifted from party to party and earned the disreputable title of "political butterfly." Let him be nameless here because he was otherwise a respectable public official and is now peacefully departed. So let me refer instead to a more identifiable figure in the person of Ferdinand Marcos. He deserves to be remembered for his sins as a deterrent for those who would follow his negative example.

Marcos was a prominent leader of the Liberal Party that saw in him a potential President of the Philippines. The only trouble was that he was pre-empted by Diosdado Macapagal, who as vice president to President Carlos P. Garcia, defeated the latter in the presidential election of 1961. Marcos claimed that Macapagal had promised to give way to him in 1965, but Macapagal denied this and ran for reelection. Marcos thereupon bolted the Liberal Party and joined the Nacionalista Party.

Marcos was enthusiastically welcomed by his formerly hostile party, which proclaimed him as its standard bearer and official candidate against President Macapagal. The defector now trained his guns against the Liberal Party and extolled the merits of the Nacionalista Party that he had for years been attacking.

His new party hailed their Benedict Arnold, and did it again in 1969, when he ran for reelection, this time against Sergio Osmeña Jr. The script was the same and he won again against his former Liberal Party with the support of his adopted Nacionalista Party. In 1972, Marcos organized the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan that emasculated the Liberal Party, where he had begun his political career, and the Nacionalista Party that had enabled him to establish his dictatorship.

Ferdinand Marcos is the best example of unprincipled opportunism in Philippine politics. And he has no lack of followers in President Macapagal-Arroyo's senatorial slate.

Leading the so-called Team Unity, which is hardly united, is Edgardo Angara, whom she defeated in the vice-presidential election in 1998. Angara was later appointed Joseph Estrada's executive secretary and in 2002 became a member of the Senate, where he continued defending Erap against Ms Arroyo's government. Now, however, he is running under GMA's banner and has become her foremost defender.

Vicente Sotto III and Tessie Aquino-Oreta were hoping to be included in the opposition ticket but were in the end excluded for undisclosed reasons. Their remedy? They simply went to the other side and were warmly welcomed by President Arroyo despite objections to their suspect allegiance from her loyalist supporters. Her reason was what she called the flexible converts' "winnability."

Sotto was one of the active campaigners of Fernando Poe Jr., and his top henchman against GMA in the 2004 presidential election. But now he is her most devoted partisan. Earlier in the Senate, he defended Panfilo Lacson, now his opponent on the other side, and prevented the approval of the resolution recommending the prosecution of his former ally for certain serious offenses.

Oreta often joined President Estrada in his foreign trips instead of attending to her duties in the Senate; like Sotto, she was among the "Craven Eleven" who steadfastly supported Erap during his impeachment trial. She even danced when they outnumbered the other 10 senators against their idol and was also exposed as having received, together with John Osmeña from the opposite party, a P1 million "*balato*" each from Erap's mahjongg winnings. Also one of the campaigners for FPJ against GMA, she is now her rabid defender.

These turncoats must seriously believe that "a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines," according to Ralph Waldo Emerson, who was only being sarcastic when he said it.

I have to also mention Joker Arroyo and Ralph Recto, former critics of President Arroyo now in the administration slate, and their colleagues in the Wednesday Group, Manuel Villar and Francis Pangilinan, who have joined the followers of Erap. I will vote for all four of them because they don't have a history of flawed loyalty to weaken their political independence.

P.S. A reader recently accused me of not having an open mind for expressing my election preferences. She has a right to close her mind to my observations.

Lenten reminders

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT AN AIRPLANE that was going through turbulent weather. The passengers were all scared and quiet. Some were screaming and praying, except one boisterous man who was joking and enticing everyone to just relax and drink. The woman beside him scolded him and said: "We are going to crash! Why don't you do… don't you do something religious or godly for once in your life?" Upon hearing this, the man stood up and started a collection down the aisle.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 4, 1-13), we are told about Jesus being tempted by the devil for 40 days. Jesus, so weakened by fasting and so confused in His discerning, had become so vulnerable when the devil came in. But He stood up against the tempter—and won. After tempting Him, the devil departed from Jesus "for a time." Three lessons we can learn from Jesus about temptation: The devil knows when and where we are weak, so we must be vigilant; with God, we can overcome temptations, so we must pray; the devil leaves us "for a time," so we must not be complacent.

* * *

It's election time, and it's collection time once again. Guess who are all over the country taking up a collection down the aisle these days, tempting and luring our poor and vulnerable people with their empty promises and gimmicks? Let us be vigilant, let us not be lured by their money, by their propaganda and by their half-truths as they collect votes from us. And let us be doubly vigilant that the collection is really counted well, and counted all.

* * *

To all who are holding and who are running for public office, listen, and listen well to Jesus' timely reminders today, and take them to heart. His first reminder is: "One does not live by bread alone." Please remember that you are there not for money and not by money. Whether you know it or not, whether you accept it or not, you have a soul. What indeed would it profit you if you gain the whole world, and in the end lose your soul?

* * *

Jesus' second timely reminder is: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and Him alone you shall service." Please don't be a slave to your desire for power, and don't be a slave to the lords of this world, meaning, the political lords, the *jueteng* lords, the drug lords. Don't make gods out of creatures, for they too will pass away. Serve God and his people, not your party, not your family, not your friends, and definitely not yourself. That's why it's called public service, remember?

* * *

Jesus' third timely reminder is: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Remember that God sees and knows everything. You can fool the people. You can even make a fool out of yourself, but you cannot fool God. Stop manipulating God by giving Him your right hand in worship while your left hand is busy pocketing people's funds. Don't think that you'll always be on a roll. Divine justice is slow, but it is sure, and it will catch up with you, sooner or later.

* * *

Will the coming elections be again a victory for the devil and his cohorts? Or will it be a victory for God and His people? The answer, literally, is in our hands. And in the Comelec's hands. At this point, start singing the song: "I have two hands, the left and the right. Hold them up high, so clean and bright. Clap them softly, one, two, three. Clean little hands are good to see." This election is all about having clean hands, and having hands that know how to count—correctly.

* * *

Today is Migrants' Sunday. Let us pray for all migrants who leave the familiar shores of home and venture into distant shores in search of their dreams and meaning in life. In particular, let us pray for our overseas Filipino workers, the little ones who brave deprivation, loneliness and even persecution for the sake of family and country. It is they, more than the government, who are keeping our economy afloat. *Mabuhay ang mga* OFWs!

* * *

Let us also remember and pray for our Filipino missionaries who are scattered all over the world to share the Good News. We have 140 Filipino SVD missionaries working in about 40 countries all over the world. They are "out there," to remind us who are "in here" that we all are missionaries, wherever we are, whatever we are doing.

* * *

We are all migrants, pilgrims in this world. We are all just passing by. Let us be reminded to travel light, otherwise the travel will be difficult, or, worse, we won't make it to our final destination. Another reminder is: It's Lent. Let us look into our hearts and flush out whatever destroys our true peace. Let us look into our lives and discard whatever is not pleasing to God. One with you as we travel on, fellow pilgrims, fellow migrants.

* * *

One of the things that make God different from people is that God is always available to listen. ~Anonymous~ Share your request and personal intentions text FJREQ<SPACE> <REQUEST> and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me again and again of what is truly important and what really matters in this life. Amen.

Respecting democratic institutions

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

THE MUCH TALKED-ABOUT "AN INCONVENient truth" reminds me of the visit here on Feb. 9 last year of former US Vice President Al Gore. Upon the invitation of Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco, the American leader delivered a riveting lecture cum PowerPoint, explaining the ill effects of global warming.

However, what equally impressed me was our private conversation regarding his electoral battle with George W. Bush during the 2000 US elections, characterized as the "closest" in American history.

Florida cliff-hanger. Recall that the electoral votes in the 49 US states, except Florida, showed Gore slightly ahead. Florida voters indicated their choice of candidates through "ballots designed to be perforated by a stylus but which either through error or deliberate omission, had not been perforated for a machine to count them. In some cases, a piece of the card—a chad—(was) hanging by two corners. In other cases, there was no separation at all, just an indentation on the card." For this reason, the automated machine did not count them.

The issue was whether those imperfectly-punched ballot cards (that the machine was not programmed to read) should be manually counted. If they were, Gore's victory would have been sealed. If not, Bush would win.

To Gore's jubilation, the Florida Supreme Court decreed a manual recount. But on Dec. 12, 2000, the US Supreme Court, by a slim 5-4 vote, reversed the verdict, holding that the "use of standard-less manual recounts violated the equal protection clause."

Aside from assailing the decision's weak legal moorings, critics blamed partisanship in the US Court. They claimed that the five majority votes were cast by Republican appointees. Bush was the candidate of the Republican Party. They also pointed out that Florida's Comelec was headed by a cabinet member of Bush's brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and not by an independent constitutional officer.

Gore's patriotism. Despite these widespread howlings, Gore accepted the verdict of the US high court and conceded victory to Bush. So, I asked him: "Why did you not pursue your remedies in the public fora, in media and in the streets of America? After all, you won the popular vote."

Gore's reply was quick: "There is something greater than me. The survival of our democratic institutions is more important than my personal victory. The Supreme Court had spoken. Though I disagreed with its decision, I had a duty to respect and obey it.

"If I had protracted the battle to America's streets and parks, there would have been chaos and political upheaval. The manual recount would have taken many months. Meantime, no one would have been sworn in as President that ensuing January. Can you imagine a leaderless United States?" he asked rhetorically.

Gore was tall and husky. But in my esteem, he immediately rose 10 feet taller. I believe history will always cherish his selflessness and patriotism. He may not have become President, but he will be remembered better than many who had sported that title.

If this electoral aberration had taken place in the Philippines, I am wondering what would have happened. Would the loser have demonstrated the same healthy respect for democratic institutions? Or would he/she have led an armed revolution?

Note, however, that unlike the 1986 Philippine election that triggered Edsa I (commemorated anemically this week), there was no allegation of massive cheating during the Bush-Gore face-off. The only issue was whether the imperfectly-perforated ballots should be manually counted.

Filipino excuses for failures. When Filipino politicians fail to deliver on their promises, they fault our democratic systems and institutions, instead of themselves. Some want to junk the system of checks and balances allegedly because it causes gridlocks and delays; thus, they justify their inability to deliver basic services to our people.

But wasn't the system instituted precisely to stop railroading and abuses? Wasn't it created to avoid the concentration of power in one official and to prevent absolute power from absolutely corrupting?

Our governmental setup is not perfect, and our Constitution can stand some improvements, but we should not undermine our basic institutions just because our leaders have failed to produce the desired results.

Gore's loss was heartbreaking. But it was not used as an excuse to overhaul the electoral college system in the United States. Neither did it lead to a constitutional amendment to create a presidential electoral tribunal.

America does not have any Ombudsman, or a Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, or citizen's anti-corruption groups. But it is not as graft-ridden as the Philippines.

America does not have a constitutionally-independent Comelec, or a Namfrel quick count, or a PPCRV electoral watchdog, yet it holds orderly and credible elections. I do not denigrate these citizen efforts. In fact, I praise them. I merely lament the failure of our institutions, laudably created as they were, to perform their assigned tasks.

Our problem is not the inadequacy or wrongfulness of our laws and institutions. Our problem is the lack of visionary leaders who—by their own example—obey our laws, respect our institutions and place the interest of the public above theirs.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Strange bedfellows for Wednesday Group

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

IT'S WITH RELUCTANCE THAT I WRITE THIS piece because this is about a moral principle that is wide open to misuse and abuse—not to mention the protests from hard-line moralists. But Amando Doronila's column (INQUIRER, 2/16/07) on the Wednesday Group's being "the first casualty of the completion of the main senatorial tickets" broke my hesitation.

I feel the misgivings the group members may have gone through—especially Joker Arroyo, the quintessential oppositionist, as straight as you can have these elastic, plastic politicians. I lament the reality that led them to align themselves with people whose views may go against their very grain.

Here's some comfort. Their decision can rest on a sound moral principle. Inadvertently perhaps, the principle has actually been widely practiced or "malpracticed" by politicians. I hear that businessmen do it, too.

Nevertheless, the principle may offer some assurance not only to Arroyo et al., but also to us who feel ill at ease when we are left with no choice but to go against ironclad principles.

Back in college, the closest we got to escaping a dilemma was the Principle of Double Effect, whereby an act has an intended good effect and an unintended but tolerated bad effect. The classic example for us then was the operation that would save the mother but possibly kill the fetus—controversial but reassuring enough.

The principles I speak of now go a step or two farther—the Principle of Tolerance, the Principle of Compromise and the Norms for Possible Material Cooperation with Evil. My eyebrows hit the ceiling. Taught never to compromise but to condemn the so-called "necessary evil," my moral moorings got a bit shaken.

So delicate in their application are these principles that I choose to quote rather than paraphrase. Here goes:

> The application of a principle is fraught with rationalization and opportunism. It must be done with the cleanest motives as the only way out

"Can you ever tolerate evil or compromise what you feel should ideally be done in a certain situation, or even in some circumstances in which you find yourself cooperating in some way with the evil being done? The short answer is yes—a qualified yes to be sure, but a yes all the same .... We live in a sinful world and none of us is morally omnipotent. Therefore, we will all have to cooperate and/or tolerate evil situations at some time or another.

"Compromise in a moral matter is not in itself something necessarily dangerous or a betrayal of moral good. Compromise is better seen as an honest attempt to realize the best possible particular good in a concrete situation."

Our morally complex world "is almost never an all black or white, good or bad, right or wrong set of choices which confronts us .... Doing the very best we can in any and every concrete situation will always be moral. There is an old theological axiom to this effect, 'God does not command the impossible.'"

By the way, I'm not saying that the rest of the members of the slate are "evil." Some are exceptionally good, like Sonia Roco. But many of them, especially in Team Unity, are dreadfully unprepared or miserably mediocre or potentially corrupt. All of them cannot and do not share the same ideals and capabilities, except by lip service.

To be in the same slate, to have to campaign together, to mouth the same bromides—that is compromise enough and, at worst, material cooperation with what seems evil. But that seems the only way to get the "best possible particular good in a concrete situation." For how else can "independent-minded" candidates get elected except by joining even a tarnished ticket? All by one's lonesome is impossible in politics.

At the first heat of the oust-GMA movement, many could not bear marching with characters they couldn't stomach because of ideological, political or moral differences. "*Kung ito ang* opposition, *huwag na lang*." We forgot that against Marcos, we all got together within the "evils" of a communist-feudalistic-capitalist-fascist combine.

Clearly, the application of a principle is fraught with rationalization and opportunism. It must be done with the cleanest motives as the only way out. The concrete specifics must be thoroughly weighed in. Yes Virginia, it's not all black and white.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com : fax 8210659

The power to idiotize

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ONE OF THE MOST COMPELLING PUBLIC affairs programs on Philippine television today is GMA-7's "I-Witness," a show featuring documentaries made by the station's young reporters. Every week, a different host gets to write the script, go on location shoots, and present the show. My daughter, Kara, is fortunate to be one of the regular hosts. It is the best assignment a journalist in any medium can possibly have. Because of their reflective approach to their subject, shows like "I-Witness" can induce vital changes in the public consciousness.

The question we must ask is: Why are they shown so late? Last Monday, I stayed up to wait for Kara's piece "Sa Mata ni Ekang," an exploration of childhood and poverty in Metro Manila's slums. The TV guide puts its airing time at 12:15, a little past midnight. It came in at 12:40 a.m., by which time I had trouble keeping my eyes and mind focused. "Saksi," GMA-7's 30-minute late evening news, precedes "I-Witness." It was supposed to air at 11:45 p.m. It came in half an hour late, its own time slot having been colonized by the hour-long "Lagot Ka Isusumbong Kita," an improbable adult comedy show strung together by relentless inanity. "Lagot Ka" was also running late, like all the other primetime shows before it—mostly telenovela serials, because, very likely, the station's live noontime "Eat Bulaga" lunch show went on extra time.

"Eat Bulaga" appears to be a daily routine at GMA-7. Public affairs shows, like "Palaban" (which replaced "Debate"), normally air just before 1 a.m. In the '80s and '90s, talk shows aired regularly at 10:30 p.m. But air time has since become more precious, with more advertisers chasing after a limited stretch of primetime.

When I began hosting a public affairs show on Channel 13 in 1986, I was assigned a 9:30 p.m. slot. The show was moved to 10 p.m. and then to 10:30, where it stayed for many years. The political satire "Sic O'clock News" preceded my program "Public Forum," and both were directed by the filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya. It was the heyday of social commentary. By the time I left television hosting in 2003, the show I was doing with Katrina Legarda for Channel 2, "Off-the-Record," would typically come in at midnight. We ended up taping the show a few hours before just to make the schedule less aggravating to our guests.

ABS-CBN (Channel 2) has since moved its public affairs shows, except the news, to its cable station, ANC, where they are aired in the early evening, and replayed. The gain in time slot, however, has entailed the sacrifice of a vital audience—the mass viewers who rely on free television. Which of the two strategies works better for the public: Channel 7's relegation of public affairs shows to the dead hours after midnight, or Channel 2's decision to exile these programs altogether to cable television?

The answer to this question must proceed from a clear understanding of the functions of the mass media in any society. They are modern society's main sources of information, but they are also the principal purveyors of entertainment, and often the latter interferes with the former. As business ventures, they are drawn more closely to entertainment than to information. Yet, as social institutions that play a crucial role in the shaping of the public mind, they are expected to enrich the flow of information in society. This is done not just by increasing the volume of information but by introducing perspectives that depart from or clash with habitual ways of seeing.

"This is how the system allows new blood to flow in," says sociologist Niklas Luhmann. "In this way the system is able to generate resistance to its own habits. It can produce 'changes in values', it can give preference to minority opinions that push themselves to the fore, perhaps especially because they appear as spectacular, full of conflict, deviant, and therefore trigger the 'spiral of silence...'" It is when we are faced with information that is not consistent with our own personal experiences that we are provoked to think, to question our own beliefs about the world.

I don't know exactly how the story of Ekang, the 3-year-old girl, from whose eyes last Monday's "I-Witness" looks at the world, would have been received by Filipino viewers. The girl's fascinating vocabulary is peppered with cuss words taken from the colorful slang of her elders. Her mother, a drug pusher, sends her out to buy a few sticks of cigarettes. She hears her father, a tricycle driver during the day and a robber at night, explain why his sortie the other night netted him nothing. Her grandmother, a pimp, cuddles Ekang as she tells the camera how they got to where they are today. A sensitive viewer could begin to wonder how many kids are growing up under these circumstances, why, and what future, if any, awaits them.

Television has the power to trigger such reflections. Even if it is merely to irritate us or to make us uncomfortable, every thought like this forms a weak link in the reproduction of complacency. It challenges our memory and the consistency of our beliefs. It breaks the stupor created by "the continuum of perception that is the world."

Do we wonder why, despite our high literacy rate, Filipino voters seem unable to command enough discernment in their choice of public officials? In an election year like this, the big players of the television industry might ask themselves if they have not, wittingly or unwittingly, used their power of communication to idiotize the masses.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Monuments

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

BALETE, TARLAC—AS IT HAPPENS, I'M IN HACIENDA Luisita, standing by the side of a blindingly white avenue, across the Las Haciendas de Luisita Golf Course. I am told that Koreans and the occasional Japanese businessman use the golf course, on vacation, although right now, the only movement comes from the goats that chew on the yellow grass outside its gates. The air is dry and arid, and there is a hot, blistering wind that sends gray sand swirling up from the road. Inside Balete, the military detachment is surrounded by piles of sandbags, fenced with thin bamboo poles, hedged with twisted wire whose strands are threaded with the creeping crimson blossoms of bougainvillea.

Beside me is Federico Laza, an old man in a battered cloth hat, dust caught between the wrinkles in his leathery skin. I'm here to ask for his story, and I'm here hoping I'm wrong.

In 1957, Jose Cojuangco Sr. took out a loan to buy the 6,453-hectare Hacienda Luisita from the Spanish company Tabacalera. The loan was guaranteed by the Central Bank of the Philippines, on the promise that it would be redistributed in 10 years to the farmers tilling the land. In 1967, there was no redistribution, but Cojuangco took out another loan, P16 million, guaranteed by the GSIS, on a contract that the land would be distributed to the tenants. There was still no redistribution by 1978, and after a long court battle, the Regional Trial Court of Manila came down in 1985 with an order for the land to finally be given to the farmers.

In February 1986, the year after the court decision, Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino was declared President of the Republic of the Philippines through the People Power Revolution.

In 1988, in spite of the RTC's decision, a Stock Development Option Agreement (SDOA) was signed between the Cojuangcos and the hacienda's farm workers, with the latter giving up their land to Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) in exchange for HLI shares of stocks.

Apo Laza, as Federico Laza is called, says that when Ms Aquino became President, the 1967 land distribution contract was dropped. There was signing, yes, but it wasn't as voluntary as the Cojuangcos would like to pretend.

"*Pumirma kami*," says Apo Laza, "*Pero puwersahan*."

Those who refused to give up their right to the land would open their doors to council members who threatened them with expulsion from the barrios. They were asked to choose: *Trabaho o prinsipyo*, work or principle. Some of those doing the asking carried rifles while they waited for answers.

According to HLI and Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Cojuangco Aquino, "The hacienda tenants voluntarily agreed to give up land distribution for shares of stock of the corporation," and had enjoyed the fruits of their "wise decision."

The workers were paid based on an assumed P194.50 per day, seven days a week. Eventually, they were working only one day a week, and their mythical P194.50 was reduced to P9.50—deductions were taken out for rice, sugar, salary loans and supposed health benefits. As for their shares of stock, most have been paid only once. Apo Laza collected P2,000 in the last 20 years.

In a press release from HLI, it was claimed that "The Hacienda Luisita farm workers are a contented lot enjoying tens of millions of peso benefits a year." In a phone interview, Representative Aquino denies payment of anything less than minimum wage. The stories, he says, are mostly propaganda.

In November 2005, around 15,000 tenants gathered in a strike to protest the SDOA and to have their lands released. Apo Laza's son Hesus was one of the strikers. On the 16th day of that month, the day now known as the Hacienda Luisita Massacre, dispersal units came in with almost a thousand soldiers in full battle gear. The PNP numbered 500. At 3 p.m., the farmers were bombarded with tear gas as they stood on the wet concrete. Water cannons exploded. Tanks barreled into the gates. There was an order—two sharp cracks of a rifle, then the blizzard of bullets followed. Apo Laza saw his son collapse, just a few feet away, felled by an M14.

In 1939, Leon Trotsky said "The masses go into a revolution not with a prepared plan of social reconstruction, but with a sharp feeling that they cannot endure the old regime."

Seven union deaths were recorded on Nov. 16, 2006. A non-union man was shot when he went after the military for lobbing tear gas at his little boy. There were illegal arrests. Apo Laza found his son in the hospital, dead on arrival. The police claimed they found powder burns on Hesus' hands, proof he, too, had a gun. The autopsy said otherwise.

Last year, HLI asked the Supreme Court to stop the Department of Agrarian Reform from distributing the sugar estate to the farmers. The case is still in court. HLI claims there is no proof that the farm worker-beneficiaries of the sugar estate would like the agreement to be revoked. Fifteen thousand protesters do not appear to be enough. Representative Aquino claims that most of them were from Manila.

In the papers, former President Fidel V. Ramos bewails the People Power Revolution's disappearance "into the fog of history."

"Regretfully," says FVR, "the prevailing view is that Edsa was no big deal. That Edsa is no longer that important seems more and more the conventional wisdom."

They say that if there's something you want forgotten, the best way is to commemorate it. Maybe, the reason we've stopped celebrating Edsa is, 21 years down the road, we've begun to see past the smoke and mirrors. People Power wasn't just a revolution of flowers and rosaries and the grand demise of a totalitarian dictatorship. Those heady days in 1986 were days when the people snatched back control of their political destiny. It was a time when democratic processes and institutions were restored, and spaces given to allow the voiceless to have voices. It was a rare moment of great promise where an open political environment offered the plausible promise of democratic reform and political participation. At the pinnacle of this potential change was land reform—after all, we're an agricultural country, and land stands as the principal means of production. That potential was stunted at a time when it could have been cultivated.

"Many of our young people and even elected leaders today seem indifferent to the spirit of what has become known as the Edsa Revolution," FVR says.

And so I'm one of the young people who believe very little in the spirit of Edsa, whatever that may be. Of course, Edsa is still a point of pride—no matter what happens, that moment is stark in the purest pursuit of freedom and human dignity that the world will probably never see again. It's what happened after—and what was forgotten—that makes it feel as if we've knelt too long at the foot of an oppressive monument.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor: Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

PANGLAO

Center of marine biodiversity

THE COLLECTION OF SOME 200 NEW CRUSTACEAN species and some 2,000 new mollusk species from the waters off Panglao Island in Bohol in 2004 and 2005 was a major scientific achievement.

"For invertebrates, the scale of what we have done is unprecedented," said Peter Ng, a member of the Panglao expedition and of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, the body that regulates how new species should be described.

With 80 participants from 19 countries, the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project is considered the most comprehensive survey of benthic invertebrates conducted in the tropics.

The new species further establish the Philippines as the "center of the center" of marine biodiversity in the world. It has been found that the Philippines has "a higher concentration of species per unit area" than Indonesia.

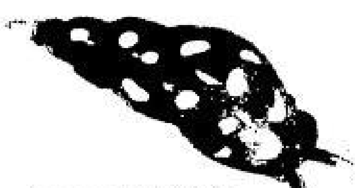
The Philippines and Indonesia are part of the "Coral Triangle" that is believed to contain the highest number of marine species. The triangle includes Taiwan and New Guinea.

Worm's eye view of Largo's Segenziid Snail

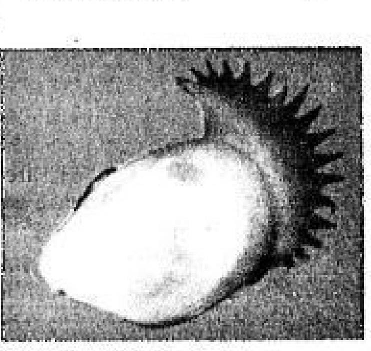
Location, geology could explain phenomenon

By Kate Pedroso

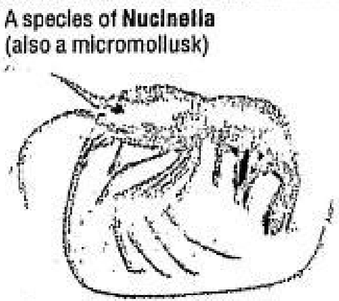
THE WATERS OFF PANGLAO ISLAND IN BOHOL are among the richest biodiversity spots in the world. A total of 150 to 250 new crustacean species and between 1,500 and 2,500 new mollusk species were found in the area during two expeditions—the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project in 2004 and its extension, the Panglao Deep-Sea Cruise in 2005.



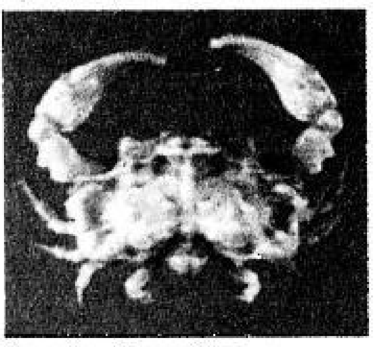
A species of **Eulimidae** (a micromollusk)



A species of **Nucinella** (also a micromollusk)



Heterocarpos chani (Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn)



A species of **Leucosiidae**

For the first time, numerous species were observed and photographed alive. Specimens were collected by intertidal sampling not only on mudflats and seagrass beds but also in mangroves, and by scuba diving, trawling and dredging. Traps and tangle nets were also used.

Covering about 15,000 hectares, the study yielded more than 1,200 species of decapod (10-footed) crustaceans and some 6,000 species of mollusks.

In contrast, the 300-million-hectare Mediterranean Sea has 340 species of decapods and 2,024 species of mollusks.

Coastal ecosystem fauna were the focus of the six-week 2004 survey, while deep-sea ecosystems were surveyed for two weeks in 2005.

Ghost shrimp

Among the new shrimp species discovered during the expeditions were the Panglao Ghost Shrimp (*Eucalliax panglaoensis*), the Panglao Crinoid Shrimp (*Unguicaris panglaonis*) and Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn (*Heterocarpus chani*).

The Panglao Ghost Shrimp got its name from its cryptic behavior and transparent white body. The new species was named by Peter Dworschak of the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, Austria.

The Panglao Crinoid Shrimp's specially adapted claws on the legs, which allow them to clamp firmly on their hosts, make them a new genus.

Tin-Yam Chan, who named this species, is from the National Taiwan Ocean University, and was a participant in both the 2004 and 2005 surveys.

Chan was also one of the collectors of another new shrimp species, the *Heterocarpus chani* or Chan's Deep Sea Prawn, which was named after him by Xinzheng Li of Academia Sinica in Qingdao, China.

The expeditions discovered new crabs, such as Daniele's Deepwater Porter Crab (*Dicranodromia danielae*) and the fuzzy sponge crab (*Hirsutodynomene vespertilio*), which got its common name from its dense fur and unusual carapace features.

New snails discovered included Largo's Segenziid Snail (*Ancistrobasis largoi*), named after one of the project's principal investigators, Danilo Largo of the University of San Carlos, and Tramier's Trochid Snail (*Pseudominolia tramieri*).

Saw-tooth shark

Other interesting specimens obtained from Panglao in 2005 included a "possibly undescribed species" of saw-tooth shark, as well as a good number of specimens from two relatively rare crab families, the *Retroplumidae* and the *Tymolidae*.

The question ultimately is: What's so special about Panglao and its waters? What makes it a "hotspot?"

Kent E. Carpenter and Victor G. Springer, in their 2004 paper, "The center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity: the Philippine Islands," pointed to the central Philippines as "a peak of marine biodiversity."

"Our study indicates ... that there is a higher concentration of species per unit area in the Philippines than anywhere in Indonesia," they said.

Highest concentration

An earlier study by Guido Poppe and Philippe Bouchet found that the Philippines had the highest concentration of living *Pleurotomariidae* or Emperor Slit Shells in one spot, with at least five species thriving around Balut Island in South Mindanao.

Among these species was the Balut Island Emperor Slit Shell, (*Bayerotrochus philpoppei*), a new species. This family of shells got its common name from a Japanese tradition in which fishermen deliver the shells to the emperor, lest they be sentenced to death.

Ludivina Labe, senior marine biologist at the National Fisheries Research Development Institute, said Panglao's richness could be traced back to geological events, such as changes in sea levels and the formation and submersion of islands through time, citing the Carpenter and Springer study.

Theory of the sill

"Another aspect of the geological history that could have contributed to a concentration of species in the Philippines is the integration of islands that created the archipelago," said Carpenter and Springer.

The "theory of the sill" could explain the rich marine fauna in the waters off Panglao, said Noel Saguil, project manager of Census of Philippine Marine Biodiversity and one of the scientists involved in both Panglao expeditions.

"Technically speaking, Panglao belongs to the inland seas of the Philippines. The waters surrounding Panglao [are] shallow, [and] as we go outside to the Pacific they become deeper. So whenever there's a wave ... the area becomes a sort of 'dumping area' of biodiversity," Saguil told the INQUIRER.

Labe noted that even before the expeditions Panglao was already known worldwide as a haven for rare mollusks and crustaceans.

"That's why Bouchet (of the French National Museum of Natural History) coordinated with us for an international expedition, to see what's in there," she said.

National Museum

On Feb. 5, the group turned over 103 holotypes to the National Museum of the Philippines. The turnover represented the single largest entry of holotypes in the museum.

A holotype is the reference specimen that bears the name that is applicable to all specimens of the same species. They are thus of utmost importance, especially to future scientists.

"Holotypes are really natural, national treasures. These are kept in vaults. What are displayed are the ... duplicate copies. Holotypes are priceless," Saguil said.

Conservation

The results of the study are not only expected to benefit science and the academe, but conservation efforts as well.

A biodiversity study is important in understanding the web of life. "Once we know what organisms are there, we would know how they are associated with each other... Associations within a marine ecosystem are so intricate, so you don't know which organisms would disappear in the event that another organism does. You need further detailed studies for that," Labe said.

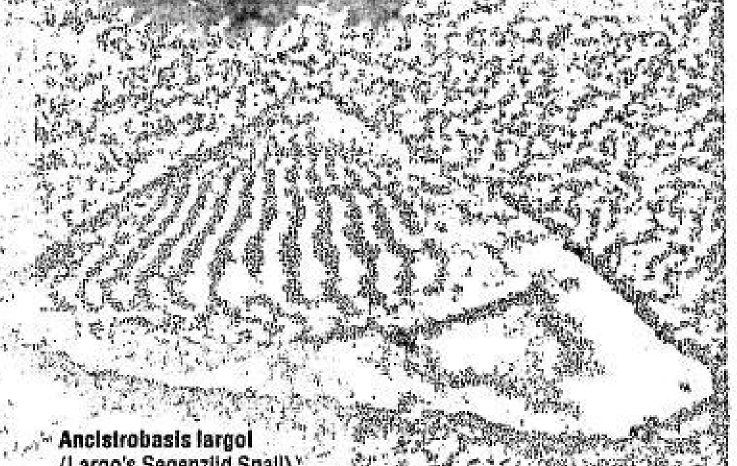
"If we don't protect them, try to get to know them, we wouldn't know what management and conservation measures to apply," she said.

However, conservation does not lie with the scientists, according to Saguil.

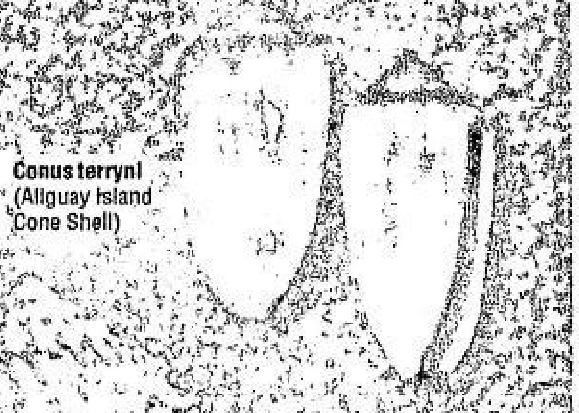
"We have recommendations ... like, in this area, don't do this or that. There's the Convention on Biodiversity, to which we are a signatory. We already have specific laws, penalties, implementing rules and regulations," he said.

"It's the implementation, (that matters) Saguil said."

(Pedroso is on the staff of Inquirer Research.)



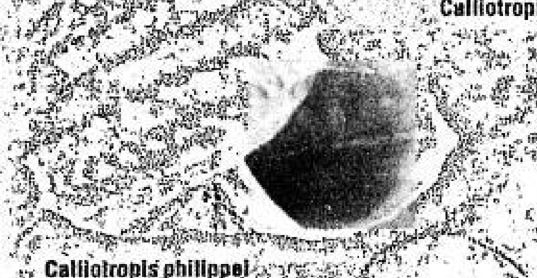
Ancistrobasis largoi (Largo's Segenziid Snail)



Conus terryni (Aliguay Island Cone Shell)

Calliotropis sagarinoi

Calliotropis yukikoae

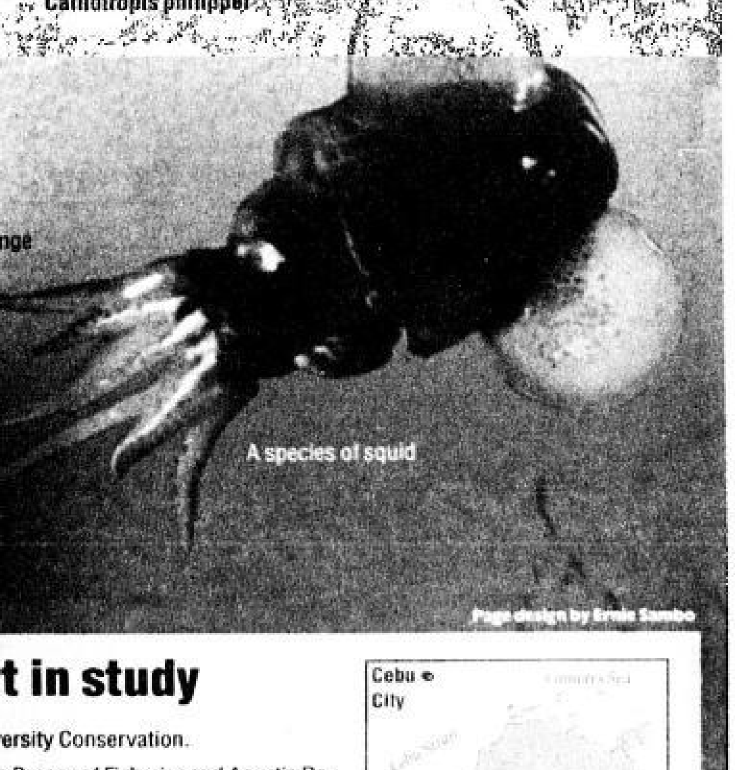


Calliotropis philippei

A species of stomatopod

A species of **Umalia**

Shrimp spongicolidae in a hexactinellid sponge



A species of squid

Page design by Ernie Sambo

Scientists, volunteers from 19 countries took part in study

UNDERTAKEN BY 80 SCIENTISTS, technicians, students and volunteers from 19 countries, the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project and the Panglao Deep-Sea Cruise were "the most comprehensive survey of benthic invertebrates anywhere in the tropics ever conducted."

"We're probably the largest. Today, [scientists] have done expeditions in Panama [with] 15 to 18 people. During Panglao 2004, we were already about 68 scientists and technicians," said Noel Saguil, project manager of Census of Philippine Marine Biodiversity.

In Panglao 2005, the scientific party alone was about 25. "We're the only ones doing expeditions of this size," he said.

UNDERWATER brushing for micromollusks

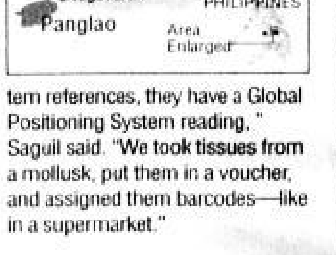
Organized by the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, the French National Museum of Natural History and the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research of the National University of Singapore, the project was supported by grants from Total Foundation and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other institutions involved include the National Museum of the Philippines, the National Taiwan Ocean University and the Asean Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation.

TRAWL haul from the deep

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and its research arm, the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, also participated in the project. BFAR, aside from being the permit-issuing authority that allowed the gathering of specimen in the area, also contributed its research vessel for the 2005 study.

The expedition used several new technologies to better catalogue the specimens. "For the first time, scientific samples have Geographic Information System references, they have a Global Positioning System reading," Saguil said. "We took tissues from a mollusk, put them in a voucher, and assigned them barcodes—like in a supermarket."



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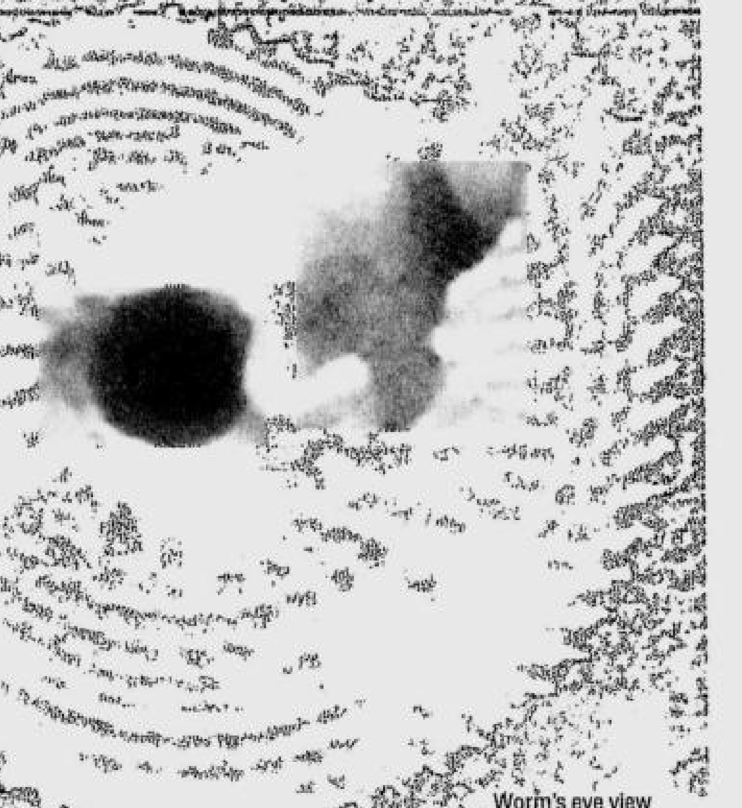

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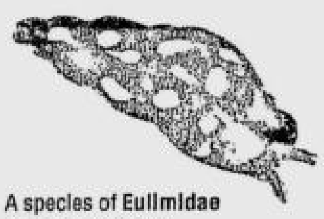

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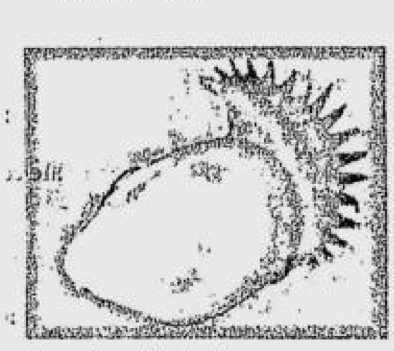

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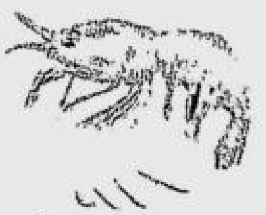
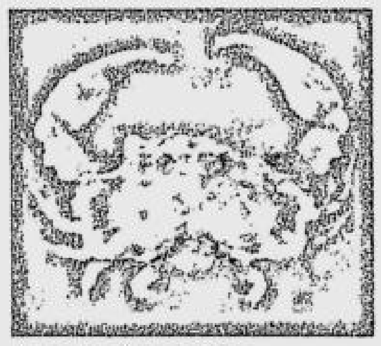


Heterocarpos chani (Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn)



A species of **Leucosiidae**

For the first time, numerous species were observed and photographed alive. Specimens were collected by intertidal sampling not only on mudflats and seagrass beds but also in mangroves, and by scuba diving, trawling and dredging. Traps and tangle nets were also used.

Covering about 15,000 hectares, the study yielded more than 1,200 species of decapod (10-footed) crustaceans and some 6,000 species of mollusks.

In contrast, the 300-million-hectare Mediterranean Sea has 340 species of decapods and 2,024 species of mollusks.

Coastal ecosystem fauna were the focus of the six-week 2004 survey, while deep-sea ecosystems were surveyed for two weeks in 2005.

Ghost shrimp

Among the new shrimp species discovered during the expeditions were the Panglao Ghost Shrimp (*Eucalliax panglaoensis*), the Panglao Crinoid Shrimp (*Unguicaris panglaonis*) and Chan's Deep-Sea Prawn (*Heterocarpus chani*).

The Panglao Ghost Shrimp got its name from its cryptic behavior and transparent white body. The new species was named by Peter Dworschak of the Museum of Natural History in Vienna, Austria.

The Panglao Crinoid Shrimp's specially adapted claws on the legs, which allow them to clamp firmly on their hosts, make them a new genus.

Tin-Yam Chan, who named this species, is from the National Taiwan Ocean University, and was a participant in both the 2004 and 2005 surveys.

Chan was also one of the collectors of another new shrimp species, the *Heterocarpus chani* or Chan's Deep Sea Prawn, which was named after him by Xinzheng Li of Academia Sinica in Qingdao, China.

The expeditions discovered new crabs, such as Daniele's Deepwater Porter Crab (*Dicranodromia danielae*) and the fuzzy sponge crab (*Hirsutodynomene vespertilio*), which got its common name from its dense fur and unusual carapace features.

New snails discovered included Largo's Segenziid Snail (*Ancistrobasis largoi*), named after one of the project's principal investigators, Danilo Largo of the University of San Carlos, and Tramier's Trochid Snail (*Pseudominolia tramieri*).

Saw-tooth shark

Other interesting specimens obtained from Panglao in 2005 included a "possibly undescribed species" of saw-tooth shark, as well as a good number of specimens from two relatively rare crab families, the *Retroplumidae* and the *Tymolidae*.

The question ultimately is: What's so special about Panglao and its waters? What makes it a "hotspot?"

Kent E. Carpenter and Victor G. Springer, in their 2004 paper, "The center of the center of marine shore fish biodiversity: the Philippine Islands," pointed to the central Philippines as "a peak of marine biodiversity."

"Our study indicates … that there is a higher concentration of species per unit area in the Philippines than anywhere in Indonesia," they said.

Highest concentration

An earlier study by Guido Poppe and Philippe Bouchet found that the Philippines had the highest concentration of living *Pleurotomariidae* or Emperor Slit Shells in one spot, with at least five species thriving around Balut Island in South Mindanao.

Among these species was the Balut Island Emperor Slit Shell, (*Bayerotrochus philpoppei*), a new species. This family of shells got its common name from a Japanese tradition in which fishermen deliver the shells to the emperor, lest they be sentenced to death.

Ludivina Labe, senior marine biologist at the National Fisheries Research Development Institute, said Panglao's richness could be traced back to geological events, such as changes in sea levels and the formation and submersion of islands through time, citing the Carpenter and Springer study.

Theory of the sill

"Another aspect of the geological history that could have contributed to a concentration of species in the Philippines is the integration of islands that created the archipelago," said Carpenter and Springer.

The "theory of the sill" could explain the rich marine fauna in the waters off Panglao, said Noel Saguil, project manager of Census of Philippine Marine Biodiversity and one of the scientists involved in both Panglao expeditions.

"Technically speaking, Panglao belongs to the inland seas of the Philippines. The waters surrounding Panglao [are] shallow, [and] as we go outside to the Pacific they become deeper. So whenever there's a wave … the area becomes a sort of 'dumping area' of biodiversity," Saguil told the INQUIRER.

Labe noted that even before the expeditions Panglao was already known worldwide as a haven for rare mollusks and crustaceans.

"That's why Bouchet (of the French National Museum of Natural History) coordinated with us for an international expedition, to see what's in there," she said.

National Museum

On Feb. 5, the group turned over 103 holotypes to the National Museum of the Philippines. The turnover represented the single largest entry of holotypes in the museum.

A holotype is the reference specimen that bears the name that is applicable to all specimens of the same species. They are thus of utmost importance, especially to future scientists.

"Holotypes are really natural, national treasures. These are kept in vaults. What are displayed are the … duplicate copies. Holotypes are priceless," Saguil said.

Conservation

The results of the study are not only expected to benefit science and the academe, but conservation efforts as well.

A biodiversity study is important in understanding the web of life. "Once we know what organisms are there, we would know how they are associated with each other... Associations within a marine ecosystem are so intricate, so you don't know which organisms would disappear in the event that another organism does. You need further detailed studies for that," Labe said.

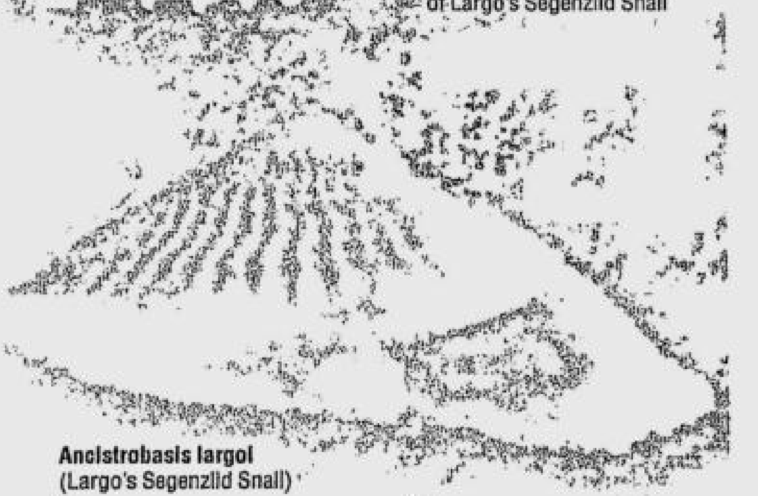
"If we don't protect them, try to get to know them, we wouldn't know what management and conservation measures to apply," she said.

However, conservation does not lie with the scientists, according to Saguil.

"We have recommendations … like, in this area, don't do this or that. There's the Convention on Biodiversity, to which we are a signatory. We already have specific laws, penalties, implementing rules and regulations," he said.

"It's the implementation, (that matters) Saguil said."

(Pedroso is on the staff of Inquirer Research.)



Ancistrobasis largoi (Largo's Segenziid Snail)

Conus terrynl (Aliguay Island Cone Shell)

Calliotropis sagarinoi

Calliotropis yukikoae

Calliotropis philippei

A species of **Umalia**

Shrimp spongicolidae in a hexactinellid sponge

A species of stomatopod

Scientists, volunteers from 19 countries took part in study

UNDERTAKEN BY 80 SCIENTISTS, technicians, students and volunteers from 19 countries, the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project and the Panglao Deep-Sea Cruise were "the most comprehensive survey of benthic invertebrates anywhere in the tropics ever conducted."

"We're probably the largest. Today, [scientists] have done expeditions in Panama [with] 15 to 18 people. During Panglao 2004, we were already about 68 scientists and technicians," said Noel Saguil, project manager of Census of Philippine Marine Biodiversity.

In Panglao 2005, the scientific party alone was about 25. "We're the only ones doing expeditions of this size," he said.

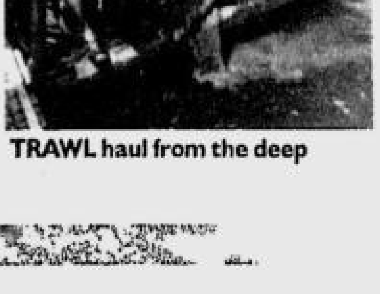
Organized by the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, the French National Museum of Natural History and the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research of the National University of Singapore, the project was supported by grants from Total Foundation and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other institutions involved include the National Museum of the Philippines, the National Taiwan Ocean University and the Asean Regional Center for Biodiversity Conservation.

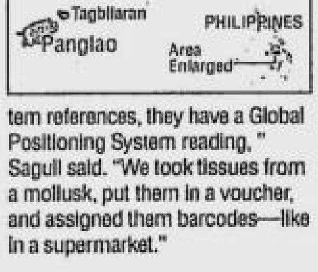
The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and its research arm, the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, also participated in the project. BFAR, aside from being the permit-issuing authority that allowed the gathering of specimen in the area, also contributed its research vessel for the 2005 study.

The expedition used several new technologies to better catalogue the specimens. "For the first time, scientific samples have Geographic Information System references, they have a Global Positioning System reading," Saguil said. "We took tissues from a mollusk, put them in a voucher, and assigned them barcodes—like in a supermarket."

UNDERWATER brushing for micromollusks



TRAWL haul from the deep



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Int'l volunteers help build houses

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Tubod, Lanao del Norte

WORKING UNder 37-degree Centigrade heat, 31-year-old Filipino-American Christine Tarroza takes breaks from her construction tasks more often than she would in her home country.

A Californian who does pastoral mission work in Chicago, Tarroza was adjusting to the tropical weather when she arrived Feb. 12 to participate in Gawad Kalinga's five-day Bayani Challenge in Kapatagan town.

Despite the discomfort of the hot and humid weather, she persevered at helping her 10-person team erect a 20-square meter house made of concrete costing P60,000.

In the process, she helped build her body's endurance to tropical heat.

Over 300 volunteers, including Tarroza, converged in Kapatagan town from Feb. 12 to 16 to help 30 indigent families of the town build their houses. This was in addition to 12 already built on abandoned national road which was converted into a Gawad Kalinga village.

By Feb. 17, Tarroza joined over 4,000 youths for the two-day 14th Singles For Christ International Leaders Conference (SFC-ILC) at the sprawling Mindanao Civic Center here.

The conference sought to give spiritual nourishment, build unity among the youth and opportunities for wholesome fun. A number of delegates arrived a week before the conference to participate in the Bayani Challenge.

Of the more than 4,000 conference delegates, 120 were foreigners, many of whom are Asians. Some were North Americans and Europeans. The foreign delegates coming from the farthest places are those from Ghana and Kenya.

A TEAM of Bayani Challenge participants focus their collective energies on achieving one goal—building a house in five days. Gawad Kalinga hopes to cultivate such team spirit among Filipinos to help rebuild the nation.
RICHEL UMEL/MINDANAO

Bearing the theme "One Hope," Bobby Lasala, one of the organizers, said the conference sought to give hope and inspire the nation that a better life for Filipinos was achievable.

"This is the message we want conference participants to bring back to their respective communities," he added.

Ray of hope

As it is, the Bayani Challenge represents the ray of hope that the conference talks about.

According to Lasala, who heads Gawad Kalinga's shelter program, the Bayani Challenge is "a race, but not a competition," to build houses for indigent families.

Through it, Gawad Kalinga hopes to achieve its "Isang Milyong Bayani" (GK1MB) target to enlist a million volunteers building houses in various sites in the country.

"So it's not just building houses. It's actually a race to (re)build the nation," Lasala said.

GK1MB is instrumental in helping rebuild the lives of residents of Guinsaugon town in Southern Leyte which was obliterated by mudslides a year ago. Gawad Kalinga is undertaking the same endeavor for the typhoon-ravaged Bicol region.

Launched in 2003, GK777, Gawad Kalinga's shelter program, hopes to build 700,000 houses in 7,000 communities in seven years. In four years, some 25,000 houses were already built, forming around 1,000 GK communities.

Lasala said they are expecting the program's achievement rate to increase as more and more volunteers and sponsors are being drawn into it and are enlisting for various legs of the Bayani Challenge.

For Tarroza, seeing the house she helped build infuses "a higher sense of personal achievement," and "a comfortable feeling of having given back to the nation."

Perseverance

"We just have to persevere to overcome obstacles," Tarroza answered when asked how the Filipino youth should face the myriad challenges confronting the nation.

"It is time to overcome the stigma Filipinos have about their capacity to achieve change," said Theresa Ann Rimbao, a 33-year-old Filipino-Canadian from Montreal who participated in the Bayani Challenge in Kapatagan town.

Rimbao said "poverty has so darkened the energy within Filipinos."

Defying the stigma

"We are here to give hope, to help see the beauty of being Filipinos so that we start being proud as a people," she said.

Born of Filipino migrant parents, Rimbao related that she has "always loved the Philippines my parents told me of and the Philippines I read about in books; the Philippines which has a very proud history."

"Now I'm here, my affection for it has deepened. I want to be part of the transformation (of the national psyche)," she said.

True to the conference's aim, the choice of its venue defies the social stigma attached to these places.

"Contrary to what we traditionally know, Lanao del Norte is quite a peaceful place, and so is a big portion of Mindanao," explained Narciso Eguia, head of the logistics committee which undertook the month-long preparation for the conference.

Eguia related that local chapters of Couples for Christ (CFC) made a bid to host the conference, and among the factors considered was peace and order, along with available facilities to accommodate the anticipated number of participants.

It was the first time the SFC-ILC was held in Mindanao.

Roaming to GK sites in Mindanao since January, Rimbao said that prior to setting out on a "personal journey," she was told of a Canadian embassy travel advisory and also received similar warnings from her parents.

"Why not? What will prevent me from serving the people?" she quipped when asked why she refused to heed these travel warnings.

Tarroza also related being told by her anxious parents to "be careful" in Mindanao.

"When we came here, we discovered that not everything we were told about the negative images of Mindanao is true," Tarroza said.

They blamed the news media for "overly playing up the violence."

Eguia also said there were no restrictions imposed on foreign delegates wanting to travel to nearby areas because "we are confident of the general peace and order (situation) in the area."

Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo said the successful staging of the conference in the province mirrors government's accomplishments in the efforts of bringing peace in Mindanao.

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STL funds not covered by poll ban

LUCENA CITY—LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDS derived from the shares of revenue from government-run small town lottery (STL) operations are not covered by the election ban, according to lawyer Lauro Patiag, head of the legal department of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Patiag maintained that since the STL funds are coming from the PCSO for charity projects of the local government, it is not covered by the Commission on Election Resolution No. 7707, which prohibits the "release, disbursement on expenditures of public works, social services and development" during the prescribed election period.

"Charity projects should not stop just because there is an election. The needy and impoverished sectors benefiting from projects and programs of the PCSO cannot afford to wait till the election is over," he said in a phone interview.

However, Patiag stressed that the funds from the STL revenues should only be spent for "health and medical services."

"The money should not be allotted for infrastructure projects and the likes," he said adding that the PCSO would soon issue the official legal opinion on the matter.

The PCSO lawyer made the clarification in response to the official query of Tiaong town Mayor Raul Umali, secretary of the Quezon Municipal Mayors League.

In an earlier interview, Umali said the members of the organization were in a quandary as to whether the funds they got from the STL operation in their respective localities could be used even during the election period.

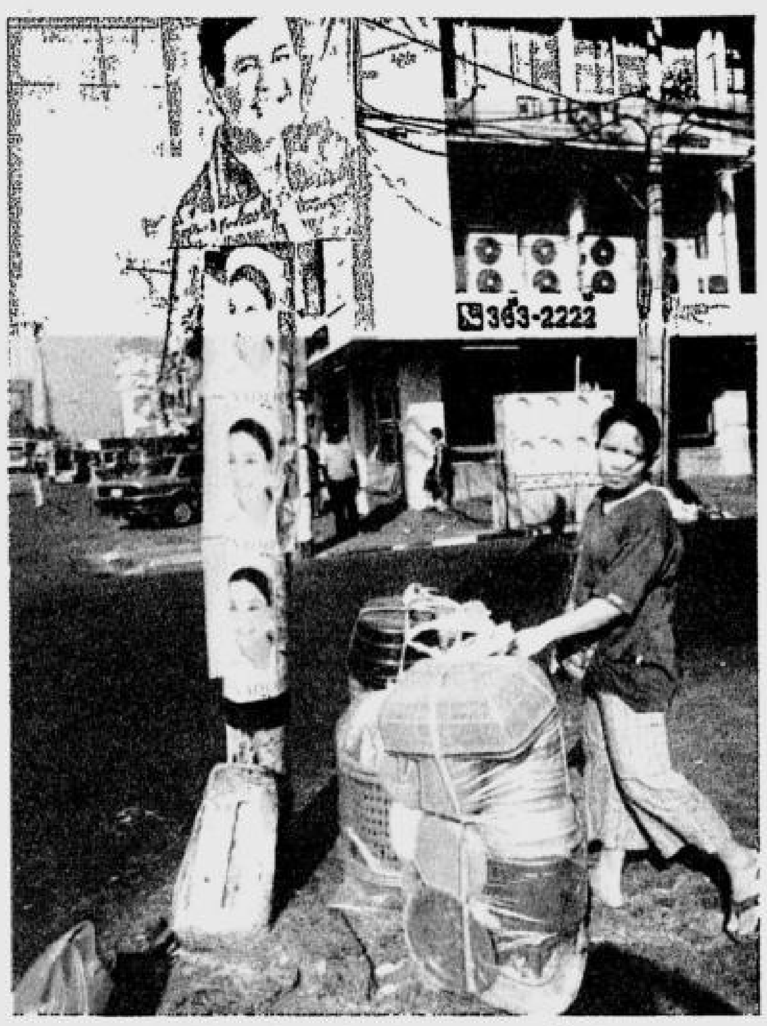
"The charity program of every local government unit is in effect 24 hours a day. You just can't say 'no' to an impoverished constituent who comes knocking at your door," he said.

Under the PCSO sharing system, 30 percent of the net sales of the STL operation will be divided as follows: 10 percent will go to the city or municipal government, five percent to the provincial government, five percent to the local police, and 2.5 percent to each congressional district.

However, some of the mayors complained that the shares of their towns from the STL revenues were being sabotaged by the continuous operations of illegal bookies and the illegal numbers game "jueteng."

One of the mayors, who requested anonymity, said the PCSO should urge the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies to stop the operation of illegal bookies and jueteng.

He said the illegal lottery operation was slowly inching to finally cover the whole province. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*



ELECTIONS and the garbage that they generate, like these posters in a Quezon City street, have no effect on the disbursement of government funds from operations of small town lottery, according to a PCSO lawyer.
JOAN BONDOC

MEDICard Awarded "Best HMO" by DLSU Medical Center

MEDICard Philippines, Inc. was recently conferred with the **"Best Performing HMO"** award by the De La Salle University Medical Center in Dasmarinas, Cavite during the celebration of its Silver Jubilee last February 16. Present during the awarding ceremonies were ***(from L to R)*** **Dr. Melchor Frias** (DLSUMC VP-Research Svcs.), **Dr. Romeo Ariniego** (DLSUMC VP-Academic Svcs.), **Ms. Gie Lampa** (MEDICard Marketing Assistant), **Dr. Voltaire Victoria** (MEDICard Sales & Business Devt. Manager), **Sr. Marie Antoine Villanueva** (DLSUMC VP-Admin. Svcs.), **Br. Manuel Pajarillo** (DLSUMC President), **Dr. Nicanor Montoya** (MEDICard President), **Mr. Luis Montoya** (MEDICard EVP & General Manager) and **Dr. Charles Yu** (DLSUMC VP-Medical Svcs.).

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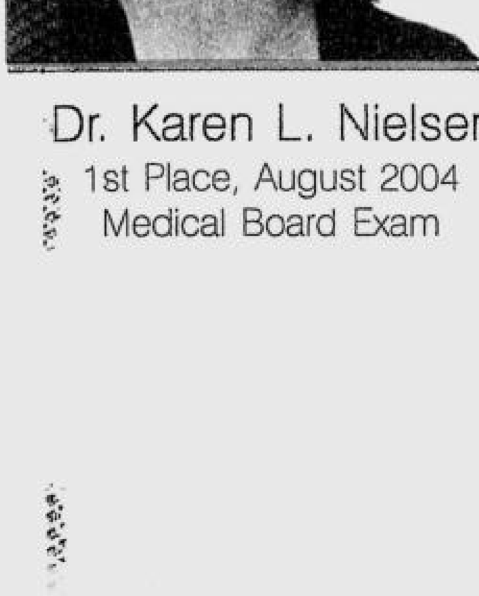

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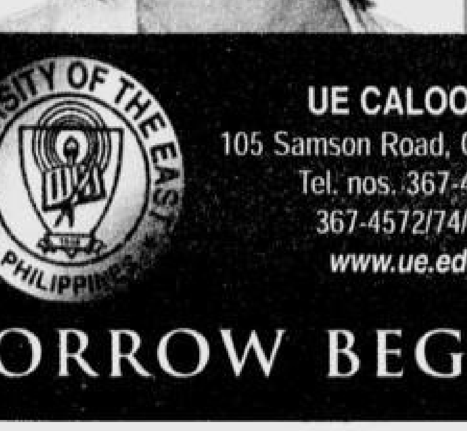
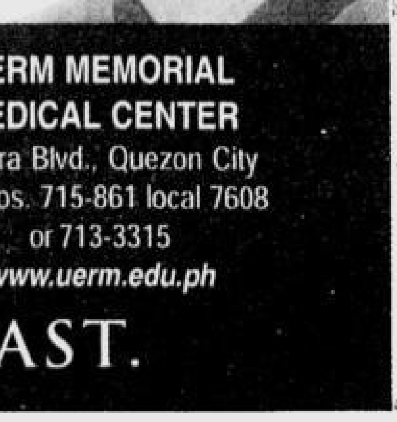
International Licensure Examination for Certified Internal Auditors

Dr. Marigold Rose B. Almoradie
1st Place, May 2005
Dentistry Board Exam

Dr. Karen L. Nielsen
1st Place, August 2004
Medical Board Exam



Engr. Ramil Rosulo E. Asis
1st Place, November 2006
Civil Engineering Board Exam



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TOMORROW BEGINS IN THE EAST.

Palace reverses DENR on Palawan nickel mines

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Malacañang has given the Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) the green light to resume its mining operations in Palawan six months after it was stopped by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Malacañang, in its decision, reversed a DENR ruling stripping the PGMC of its environment compliance certificate (ECC) for alleged over extraction.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in his order that the DENR had no jurisdiction over the case.

It also supported the separate dismissal orders of the Palawan provincial mining board, Palawan City Regional Trial Court and Parañaque City Regional Trial Court.

The suits stemmed from a unilateral termination of an agreement between PGMC and the Olympic Mines in the extraction of 50,000 tons of nickel per year in Narra, Barangay San Isidro and Pulot in Barangay Labog, Sofronio, Española in Palawan.

On April 18, 2006, the Olympic Mines and Rockworks Resources Corp. entered into a memorandum of agreement asking the Olympic Mines to oust the PGMC from the mining areas.

PGMC is a mining and mineral processing firm with a 40 percent foreign investment and a total asset of P1.9 billion.

It has two nickel smelter plants in Northern Mindanao, the first in the country, while it plans to commission smelters in April this year.

"We already resumed our operation last Feb. 12 after we received the copy of the resolution (of Malacañang)," said Pocholo Nieto, PGMC resident manager, in a mobile phone interview Feb. 19.

In his Feb. 6 ruling, Ermita reinstated to the company its ECCs and small scale mining permits which were also nullified following the revocation of its ECC.

The company lodged an appeal in the Office of President after the Special Fifth Division of the Court of Appeals junked its petition for certiorari last Jan. 18 for "breaching the doctrine of exhaustion of administrative remedy."

The court ruled that the company should have appealed first the decision of the environment secretary to the Mines Adjudication Board before "resorting to the extraordinary remedy of certiorari."

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, acting on the finding of the Environmental Management Bureau and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau that PGMC has extracted and shipped nickel ore beyond the stipulated limit for each year, cancelled the ECCs of the company on Sept. 25.

However, Reyes said in a Nov. 7 letter that the cancellation is not final and executory and PGMC can still operate pending the final resolution of its motion for reconsideration. On Nov. 22, Reyes dismissed the motion for reconsideration of the company and revoked its ECCs.

Based on a certification issued by the Philippine Ports Authority in Narra, Palawan, the PGMC shipped 308,318 metric tons of nickel ore to Australia from June 2005 to June 2006.

But Ermita said in his order that the gauge of extraction should be the volume of nickel that was derived, and not the volume of ore. *Bert Bagalay, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Bicol to get ₱5B for rehab, repair of infrastructure

LEGAZPI CITY—THE BICOL REgion will get a total of P5 billion in rehabilitation funds, the lion's share of a P6.7 billion package to be divided among 11 disaster-stricken regions, as soon as President Macapagal-Arroyo signs the 2007 general appropriations bill.

From the total P8-billion special budget granted under the general appropriations bill approved in the bicameral conference, P1.3 billion will be released as emergency and calamity fund of the National Disaster Coordinating Council while the P6.7 billion will be used to implement the Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Efforts (Care) program of the government.

Bernardo Alejandro IV, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol, said half of the P5 billion allotted to Bicol will go to Albay, the hardest-hit province.

Camarines Sur comes second to Albay and will get 27.8 percent; Sorsogon, 11 percent; Masbate, 4.5 percent; Camarines Norte, 4 percent; and Catanduanes, 2.8 percent.

Small slice

Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzalez said the P2.5 billion to be released directly to concerned agencies for the rehabilitation of Albay is smaller compared to the P6-billion rehabilitation fund it originally requested, but with it, he said, "many things can be done already for the province to move forward."

He said the rehabilitation projects will be implemented by the different government agencies but it is the provincial government that will identify what these projects will be.

In Albay, Gonzalez said, the priority components of the rehabilitation plan would be: infrastructure, social welfare, agriculture, and power restoration.

The Department of Energy, during the NDCC meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, reported that electricity had been restored in all municipalities in Bicol.

However, the DOE said 10 percent or 552 of the villages remain without electricity.

He said there was an immediate need for the Department of Public Works and Highways to fast-track the repair or reconstruction of flood control facilities, such as dikes, destroyed by the storms that hit Albay late last year.

Orlando Roces, DPWH-Bicol regional director, said the agency planned to spend P550 million for the repair and reconstruction of flood control structures.

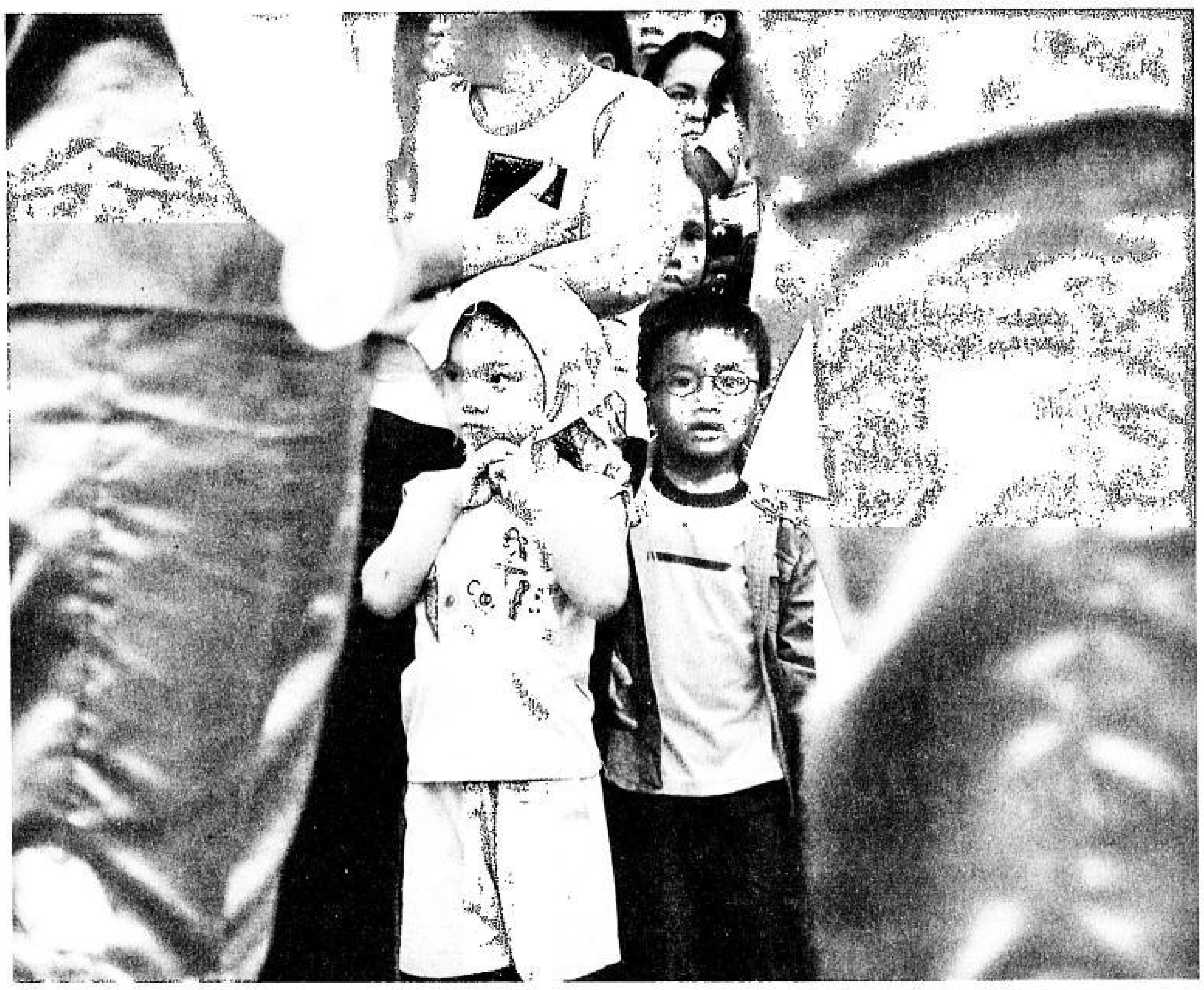
New paths

He said it was important to redefine the pathways of water since lahar created new river channels and enlarged existing ones.

He added that the DPWH would prioritize the repair or construction of flood control structures in residential areas near river systems.

One of the main and biggest river systems here is the Yawa river system that stretches from Mt. Mayon to the Albay gulf by up to more than 7 km.

A total of P629 million will be spent by the DPWH for flood control, P156 million for damaged or destroyed national bridges, P158 million for national roads and P56 million for other infrastructure. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



OBSERVERS

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Children watch a parade held for the Lunar New Year in Iloilo City. The city is one of the areas in the country where the celebration of the Lunar New Year is much awaited.

Negros kids get cleft lip, deformed palate surgery

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—HUNDREDS OF children with cleft lips and palate deformities, accompanied by parents and guardians, flocked to the Teresita Lopez Jalandoni Provincial Hospital in Silay City for free surgery initiated by the Operation Smile International (OSI).

The OSI, assisted by the Hope Volunteers Foundation, held the mission for those who could not afford the cost of operations.

Dr. Laurence Loh, Operation Smile International Team field medical director, yesterday said an operation for cleft lip and palate deformities costs between P70,000 to P100,000.

Operation Smile, a United Nations affiliated organization, is a nonprofit and volunteer-based medical mission providing free reconstructive surgery to indigent children with facial deformities. It is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

At least 50 foreign and Manila-based volunteers participated in the OSI's weeklong medical mission, which is sponsored by the Hope Volunteers Foundation. They started the screening of patients on Friday.

Edith Villanueva, Operation Smile Philippines president, said her group plans to conduct surgery on 200 children in Negros Occidental.

Dee Zobel, OSP Foundation trustee, said the group needs more volunteers to treat children with cleft lip and palate deformities.

Zobel said they depend so much on volunteers for their mission to be successful.

Villanueva said that since 1988, when the foundation began conducting medical missions in Negros Occidental, more than 2,000 indigent children have been treated in the province.

But she said thousands more are waiting to avail themselves of the free surgery offered by the OSI, which has similar projects ongoing in Cebu and Davao cities.

Threats to Mt. Province watershed growing

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF Mt. Province have started to find ways to conserve the remaining forest cover of Mt. Data, the province's major watershed.

Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog said the forest cover of Mt. Data continues to decrease due to unabated commercial farming and expansion of households.

He said the province's remaining forest cover is about 80 hectares, down from the 2,396 hectares recorded in 1936.

"If you look at the Mt. Data plateau, you can see the change in the environment. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources put up fences to prevent encroachers from coming in, but these were destroyed," he said.

"Mt. Data is an actual example of how watersheds are being destroyed," he said.

Dalog said provincial officials are in a dilemma because while they wanted to prevent vegetable farmers from further encroaching on the watershed, they also wanted to sustain and support the local vegetable industry.

He said they asked residents and vegetable farmers to plant trees in the area to maintain the watershed's ecological balance.

But even residents and farmers suffer from the deterioration of the province's watershed cradle, he said.

"The top soil is completely washed away during the rainy season. Farmers who never use chicken dung as fertilizer are now compelled to use it because they have realized that the soil is not that fertile anymore," he said.

Joel Behis, chief of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Division of the DENR in Cordillera, said since 1998, local officials have been proposing to remove Mt. Data from the protected area component of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) because the state of its environment could no longer meet the standards of a protected area.

He said human activities in portions of the Mt. Data watershed have displaced wildlife species and disrupted their habitats.

Dalog said the provincial government launched in 2004 a tree-planting activity that was aimed at planting a million trees in the watershed area.

"We have planted 1.6 million trees since the launching of the program and the towns are determined to sustain the program to sustain the watershed," he said. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Farmers' group casts doubt on plan to pool coco levy

LEADERS OF A LEFTIST FARMers' group expressed apprehension at a plan announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo to create a Coco Foundation that would manage proceeds from the sale of 26 million shares of the government in San Miguel Corp.

Willy Marbella, internal deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said the creation of the foundation could be an attempt of the government to use the money for purposes other than those that would benefit coconut farmers.

Marbella said the government could use the P130 billion of coco levy funds for the election campaign.

In a speech before coconut farmers in Mindanao on Friday, Ms Arroyo gave assurances to farmers that both the finance department and the Presidential Commission on Good Government were working for the sale of the SMC shares.

She said proceeds of the sale would be placed in the Coco Foundation, the control of which will eventually be given to the coconut farmers.

"This is pure hogwash because the rightful owners of the funds are the farmers," said Marbella in a statement.

He said under the plan, only 25 percent of the coco levy funds would go to farmers.

"You do not have to be a genius to see that they are again fooling us," said the KMP.

The KMP demanded that the entire coco levy fund be returned to farmers.

He said a bill has been filed in the House of Representatives to establish a trust fund for farmers "but it seems the President doesn't want to support it."

The 26 million shares are part of a 47-percent bloc of SMC shares, composed of the so-called Soriano and Ayala blocs, sequestered by the PCGG in 1987.

The shares were allegedly acquired by Cojuangco using coconut levy funds, which government lawyers claimed was a form of a tax and hence, public in character.

In her speech in Davao City, Ms Arroyo acknowledged that the distribution of the sequestered coconut levy funds from San Miguel has taken so long.

"The waiting has been too long for the coconut farmers," Arroyo told a gathering of 10,000 people during the 1st Coconut Farmers National Convention held at the University of Mindanao in Davao City.

The gathering was organized by the Bishops, Ulama, Priests Pastors, Farmers and Lumad Conference (BUPPFLC).

Ms Arroyo said that for more than two decades, the legal process continued to hinder the distribution of the coco levy to the farmers.

Once the issue of the coco levy funds has been settled, the President said it could be used to revive the dying coconut industry.

Charlie Avila, BUPPFLC information officer, said the foundation was included in the out of court settlement proposal they submitted to the government.

Avila said the foundation, which would be composed of 15 people, will craft the provisions of how to divide the levy among the beneficiaries. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon and Dennis Jay C. Santos, Rizalene Acac and Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao*

A PARTICIPANT to the first coconut farmers convention at the University of Mindanao in Davao City takes a nap as President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledges in a speech the delay in the release of coco levy funds to farmers. DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Tapia goes into sunset with No. 56

ISLETA PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO—JOHNny Tapia, no longer the relentless, ring-savvy battler he once was, scored a majority decision Friday over little known Evaristo Primero in what the five-time world champion said would likely be his final fight.

"This is how I wanted to go out, fighting a tough fighter," said Tapia. "It's a beautiful thing to retire in Albuquerque."

Tapia, who turned 40 earlier this month and was fighting for the first time in nearly a year and a half, landed enough punches to get the win against an opponent who 10 years ago likely wouldn't have lasted three minutes, much less take him the distance in the 10-round junior welterweight fight.

One judge scored it 98-92 for Tapia and the other had Tapia ahead 96-94. The third judge called it a draw.

"I did what I had to do to win," said Tapia, who then dodged the question of whether this really was his final bout.

Moments later Tapia tried three times to pull off a backflip, one of his signature moves of the past. Each time he missed the landing, coming up short and landing on his knees.

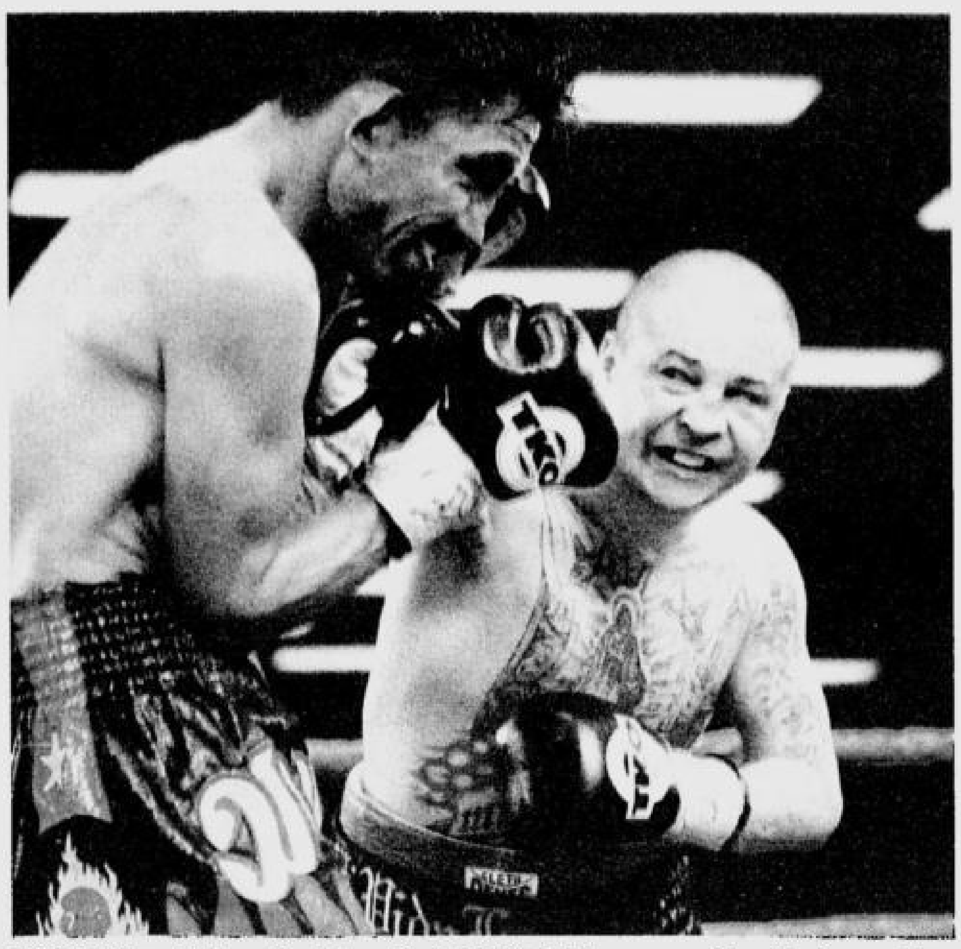
It mattered little to the sellout crowd of 3,000 packed into an Indian casino to watch the state's most popular fighter.

Primero, from El Paso, Texas, never posed a threat to Tapia (56-5-2), but he made it interesting. Bleeding from a cut above his right ear, the 29-year-old repeatedly traded punches with Tapia.

As the final seconds ticked off, Primero (14-10-1) — without a win since October of 2001 — motioned to Tapia to bring it on.

Primero believed he had won the fight and while paying tribute to Tapia as a "courageous champion" endorsed retirement for him.

"He's not the fighter he used to be. He's old," Primero said. Then borrowing from the title of Tapia's recently released book ("Mi Vida Loca"), Primero added: "For the sake of his crazy life, he needs to retire. He's going to get hurt."



FIVE-TIME world champion Johnny Tapia (right) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, punishes Evaristo Primero in the 10th and final round. AP

Just getting an opponent turned into an adventure.

Billed as Tapia's "Final Fury," it turned into a fiasco of musical chair opponents long before the first bell rang.

Tapia initially was supposed to fight Ilido Julio (35-10-1) of Colombia. When Julio failed his physical late Thursday, promoter Lenny Fresquez got Paulino Villalobos of Veracruz, Mexico.

Tapia's camp rejected Villalobos and his dubious record of 26-35-1, and Alberto Cepeda of Juarez, Mexico, became Tapia's third designated opponent — for about an hour.

Cepeda was replaced by Primero, who was supposed to fight a six-round, exhibition bout but suddenly found himself in the main event.

Fresquez declined to discuss the different lineups.

"That's boxing," was his only response. *AP*

Elorde grandson impressive in debut

CEBU CITY—THE GRANDSON of the great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde looked impressive in his victorious debut fight against a taller foe from Butuan City last night.

Juan Martin "Bai" Elorde pounded out a four-round unanimous decision win over Joseph Mateo, another debuting pro.

All three judges saw the bout 40-36 in favor of the fighter from Parañaque City.

Degree holder

Elorde, who holds a Hotel and Restaurant Management degree from the De La Salle University, scored on heavy lefts and counter-punched brilliantly throughout the first two rounds.

The young Elorde, however, apparently lost steam in the third and fourth rounds, allowing Mateo to hang tough and avoid a knockout loss.

Elorde's first professional victory was completed on the island where his famous grandfather first learned the rudiments of boxing before lording it over in the world junior lightweights division. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Pacquiao the VIP draws mixed cheers and boos

By Recah Trinidad

CEBU CITY—MANNY PACQUIAO WAS welcomed here last night with mixed cheers and boos but the top organizer of the Moment of Truth card swore there's no way to doubt the greatness and relevance of the world boxing celebrity.

"There's only one Manny Pacquiao," said sportsman Tony Aldeguer, mainly responsible for the well-attended promotion at the Cebu Sports Complex.

What about Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista?

"Boom Boom will go places but he can never be another Pacquiao, it's unfair to compare the two," Aldeguer told the INQUIRER at ringside moments before Pacquiao's arrival.

Aldeguer said boxing in the Philippines would not have enjoyed a renaissance if not for Pacquiao, voted as the best fighter in the world for 2006.

Boxing's finest era

"Manny opened everything for all the young stars like Boom Boom," said Aldeguer. "He's the reason why Philippine boxing is enjoying what could be its finest era."

Pacquiao arrived here Friday night and worked out at the Abellana gym yesterday afternoon for his scheduled April 14 fight against the undefeated Jorge Solis of Mexico in Texas.

Among those who welcomed Pacquiao at ringside was Eric Gomez, vice president of Golden Boy Promotions, which is currently engaged in a court battle with Top Rank Promotion for the right to promote the Filipino boxing superstar.

A fitting welcome to Pacquiao was the sensational first-round stoppage scored by fast-rising AJ Banal, who stopped Thailand's Komrit Wvereadygym in two minutes and 11 seconds, shortly after the Pacman took his seat at ringside.

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Venus gains title duel with Israeli

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE—FORMER WORLD No. 1 Venus Williams beat Romanian Ioana Raluca Olaru 6-3, 6-2 on Friday to reach the Memphis International final, her first event in more than four months because of injury.

The seventh-seeded American, recovered from wrist and knee injuries, saw off the 17-year-old qualifier in 71 minutes and next plays top seed Shahar Peer of Israel.

Peer beat American Meilen Tu 6-4, 7-5 in a marathon battle to reach her first final of the year.

Having struggled through to the last four, Williams produced her best performance of the week to end the enterprising run of world number 254 Olaru.

First final since 2005

The American broke once to win the first set and cruised through the second to reach her first final since July 2005, in Stanford, California.

"It's been a long week and a lot of matches for me," Williams told reporters.

"I'm definitely pleased with my serve. It comes when I need it, and my second serve has a lot of pace and is difficult to attack.

"I'm excited to (have a chance of) winning the title." Peer needed just over two hours to beat Tu, breaking the American in the 12th game of the second set.

"I knew she was playing well in this tournament because she was beating players very easily," Peer said.

"There were many moments in the match where I was just clapping as she was hitting winners from anywhere. I served well on the important points and I just kept fighting."

Loss of just 10 games

Peer, who reached the quarterfinals at last month's Australian Open, had won all three previous meetings with Tu, dropping just three games in their most recent encounter, and had romped through to the last four for the loss of just 10 games.

But world number 70 Tu, who had also not dropped a set on her way to the semifinals, put up a huge fight.

After a first set that contained five breaks of serve, Peer edged it and came through a tense service game at 1-1 in the second set, saving two break points. *Reuters*

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Facility offers drug users, alcoholics choices

By DJ Yap

FROM THE OUTSIDE, ONE WOULD NEVER guess that the Life Management Foundation in Makati City is a treatment center for people with drug and alcohol problems.

Huge rectangular glass windows in wide and spacious rooms let the sun in. The walls, painted a pastel pink and blue, cool the senses.

One wonders: Where are the locked rooms, the patients strapped to their beds, the white-robed doctors, the guards on the lookout for escapees?

There are none. At this facility on Pasong Tamo Extension, patients come and go as they please. They are responsible for their own actions, guided only by counselors who know exactly what they are going through.

"It's run by addicts for addicts," said Junjun Abella, a psychologist, one of the founders of Life Management and a recovering addict himself.

Offering a unique perspective on the treatment of substance addiction, the center is a pioneer in outpatient care for alcoholics and narcotic addicts in the Philippines.

"It's a unique program. A lot of people wonder how we are able to maintain an outpatient facility because the impression is, an addict has to be jailed, that he's a very bad person," said Abella.

"I guess the difference is in the way we project ourselves. I'm a recovering addict myself. A drug user cannot put one over a drug user, you know. I think what really helps is we understand each other," he added.

"So as a counselor, the rapport and the trust, is really there. In contrast, a psychologist is a psychologist. A psychiatrist is a psychiatrist. The addict will just think: Here's another person I can manipulate," he says.

Addiction a disease

Abella, who has a master's degree in Psychology from De La Salle University, says he cannot emphasize strongly enough that drug or alcohol addiction is a disease.

"If you make a disease illegal, does that eliminate the disease? Of course not. The illegality of it just contributes to the harm," he said.

Once a prospective client checks himself in at Life Management, he has to undergo a detoxification procedure, in which the substance is removed from his system; he is also subjected to a psychiatric assessment.

"After that, the program will vary … Some will need residential treatment (meaning they have to receive treatment under confinement, a program which Life Management does not offer.) Others are eligible for outpatient services, especially working people," he added.

"There is a set curriculum, but the delivery of the curriculum will depend on the circumstances and resources of the client. So our program is tailor-made for each participant," Abella said.

"For instance, if you're suffering from depression, we also add additional counseling from a psychologist who will help you, apart from educating you on the basic steps," he said.

Day-to-day sessions include family therapy—in which the patients and their families talk about their feelings—individual counseling, as well as group therapy.

The program, however, does not come cheap. Enrolling for three months, including relapse prevention, costs P95,000, while a six-month program costs P165,000.

But staff members said the tuition could still go lower, depending on the results of the pre-enrollment assessment.

Convincing the panel

To be able to "graduate," patients have to convince a panel of counselors that they have recovered.

"It's like a thesis. But here, you have three to five addicts like yourself (evaluating you). After you pass their 'tests,' you're okay, you can graduate," said Abella.

For cases requiring restraint and confinement, patients are usually referred for detox procedures to the "basement" of hospitals like Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center and Medical City.

"But the 12 steps (in the Life Management program) basically is about choices. The client must be free to walk out, or he can choose to stay and recover," he added.

Abella admits they have experienced cases of patients opting to leave. "There is always that possibility. We prepare the families for that. That's why outpatient is difficult on the part of the counselors as well as the families."

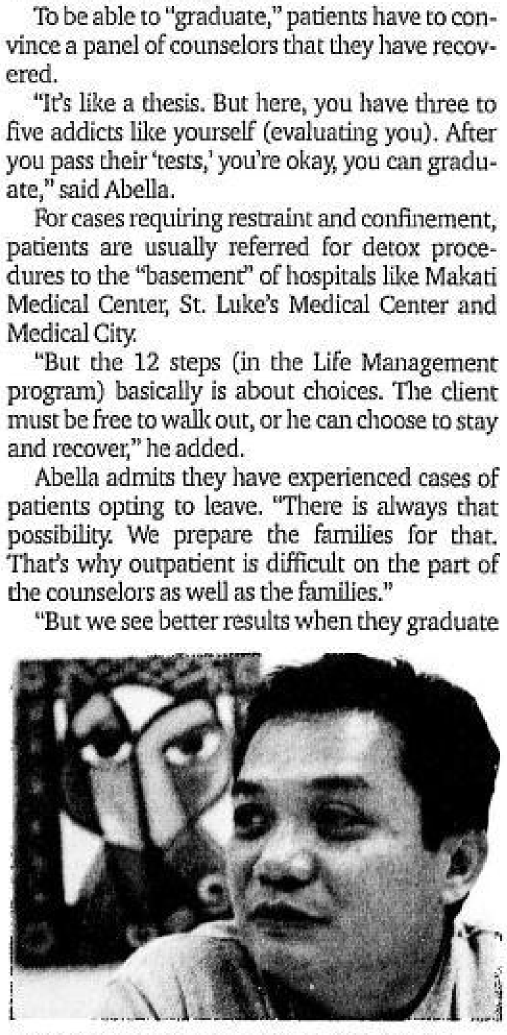
"But we see better results when they graduate because they are so adjusted here and to the life outside. They get all the coping measures necessary, and all the tools to say no," said Abella.

"I feel very good about this," said a patient, a middle-aged man, in a chat with the INQUIRER. "It's my first time in this kind of program. What's great is that I'm responsible for myself, and I'm free to come and go anytime. That's important to me," he said, adding that he has been with Life Management for nearly a month now.

The fact that all the counselors also underwent some form of addiction has had positive results, said Abella. He proudly shows a chip awarded to him recently for 13 years of staying sober.

Inscribed on it are the words, "Rarely have we seen a person who has thoroughly followed our path," "To thine own self be true," and "Unity, Service, Recovery."

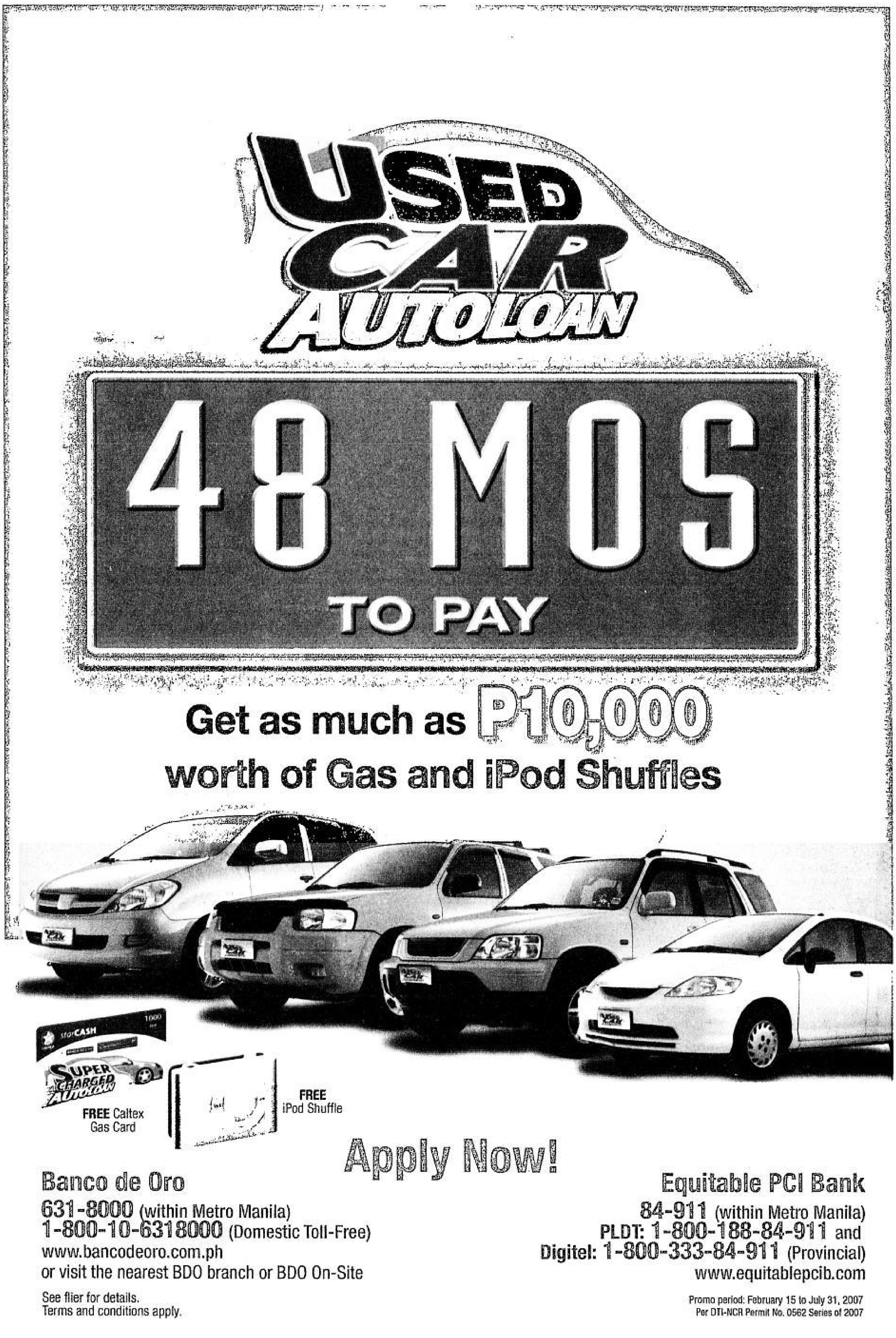
"The patients see those of us who have recovered, and they see that we're still this crazy, that we're having fun but without the drugs," he said. "We serve not only as a peer group, but also as role models. But what is important is that they see recovery is possible."



LIFE Management Foundation is a facility "run by addicts, for the addicts," says Junjun Abella, one of the center's founder and himself a recovering addict.

COUNSELORS meet with a patient in a group session.

PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM



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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Poetry is life for crippled Pinay

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SHERRY GERVACIO'S DAY USUALLY BEGINS AT 6 a.m., when she is given her morning medicine by a nurse at the Island Nursing Home in Hawaii. Like clockwork, a daily ritual begins 45 minutes later: a nurse's assistant suctions her, brushes her teeth, gives her a bath and changes her clothes.

AFFLICTED with a rare form of a muscular disease, Sherry Gervacio sees hope in the company of her book of poems at a hospital in Hawaii.

Every four to six hours, nurse's assistants take Sherry's blood pressure and temperature.

Between nebulizer treatments and massage and exercise sessions for her arms and legs, Sherry spends the day in a hospital bed, watching Korean and Filipino soap operas on TFC or The Filipino Channel or working on the computer.

Every other day, Sherry, who turns 36 on April 24, is allowed to sit in a wheelchair for at least three hours.

This is the life Sherry has known for the past 19 years.

The third child of Filipinos who had migrated to Hawaii in 1971, Sherry was a typical Filipino-American teenager brimming with hope and promise.

Quite unexpectedly, Sherry was downed by cardiac and respiratory arrest at the age of 17.

The doctor's diagnosis sounded grim: She was afflicted with a rare from of muscular dystrophy called Reducing Body Myopathy.

MOVING ON: Sherry after her release from the hospital in 1988.

Fortunately, Sherry inherited her parents' resilience and unwavering faith. Her dad Loreto, a retired US Navy man, was originally from Cavite, while mom Matea hailed from San Mateo, Rizal.

Iron will

"I survived because of the care and compassion of my doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists at Tripler Medical Center," she told the INQUIRER through e-mail. "My mother and my faith in God gave me strength."

Although she was confined in the hospital for six grueling months, she managed to graduate from Moanalua High School, "with honors," in 1989.

"I had a tutor and took the home study program," she said.

Iron-willed Sherry later enrolled at the Kapiolani Community College, majoring in Computer Programming.

"I studied for three years, but was forced to quit due to the gradual progression of my ailment," she recalled.

Her illness robbed Sherry of speech, but it also allowed her to nurture her other gifts.

"I was never interested in writing," she said. "I only started composing poetry after I became sick. It was a way for me to share my feelings since I'm unable to speak."

3 volumes

To record her musings, a portable computer table was specially designed for her by RM Professional Services. The computer screen is connected to an arm which can be moved, so she can use it even when she's in bed.

Like other writers, Sherry has good and bad days. "Sometimes writing poetry comes easy. I get inspired right away and a poem pops in my head. Other times, it takes longer and my mind draws a blank."

A constant source of inspiration is her mom.

"Most of my poems are dedicated to her," Sherry said. "Without my mom's love and strength, I would have given up a long time ago. I don't know what I'd do without her."

In the past 19 years, she has written enough poetry to fill up three volumes.

One fine day, she decided to compile her poems in a book, which she titled "Journey of My Heart."

"While surfing the Net, I found the website of Tammy Yee-Custodio, a Chinese artist who's married to a Filipino. I asked her to do the illustrations for my book and she agreed. Luckily, she also lives in Hawaii."

Meeting Sharon a dream

Sherry's mom sent the manuscript to different publishers, but was rejected every time. Not easily dissuaded, her mom decided to publish the book herself, with the help of Tammy and Mel Nakahara of RM Professional Services.

GUESS who came to see Sherry in 2005? Her idols Sharon Cuneta and Martin Nievera during a concert tour in Hawaii.

Hers is a story of inspiration, Sherry asserted. "I wish my book will inspire others not to give up hope, no matter how hard life may be. Believe in yourself and in God because dreams do come true."

Speaking of dreams, Sherry fulfilled one wish when she met idol Sharon Cuneta at the Hawaiian leg of the Mega Concert Tour in 2005. As bonus, she also met Martin Nievera.

"I've been a fan since I saw her debut movie 'Dear Heart' in 1981. I wrote to her sometime in 1993. She wrote back and we've been in touch since. Sharon's friendship means the world to me," she said.

Although she tries to remain positive, she is keenly aware of the seriousness of her illness.

Wish list

"Slowly, my health is deteriorating," Sherry admitted. "I used to be able to walk and breathe on my own without using a ventilator. But now, I'm wheelchair-bound and ventilator-dependent. I see different doctors—a cardiologist, along with pulmonary and ENT specialists—every three months."

Still, she remained willfully upbeat in her letters. "In the 19 years I've been sick, I've only been hospitalized a few times."

Sherry shared a wish list that's eloquent in its simplicity: "I wish I weren't sick anymore. I wish my mom stays healthy and lives a long time. I wish my book is a success, so that I'll have a second or third book. I wish to travel. I wish to go home."

How they met and married in Riyadh, and won an OFW award

By Miko L. Morelos

A FORMER NURSE GAVE UP work to take care of her family. Though she hadn't saved much, she had made good investments, enough to send her kids to school and give them a decent life.

Now, with three of her four children working and her youngest in school, Myrna Punay has other people to take care—the people living in her community.

Myrna Punay's family, along with two other OFW families, were chosen as Model OFW Families of the Year for 2006. The contest, a tieup between Globe Telecoms and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration, recognizes the efforts of OFW families in braving the odds of separation while keeping relationships strong.

Organizers say the Punays won because of their constant communication during the times when Myrna was away from the family. During Myrna's time, phone calls were the fastest—and expensive—way to stay in touch with relatives. A cheaper way to communicate is through snail mail, although exchanging letters takes a lot of time.

Perhaps moved by Myrna's achievements in her community, a member had nominated Myrna's family for the awards, which is on its second year. Her family bested 17 other nominees to clinch the Model OFW Family award for Luzon.

"If not for my husband and our kids, we would not have been cited as a model OFW family," Myrna tells the INQUIRER in a phone interview, highlighting the importance of the roles of family members.

Busy woman

Myrna has trained her sights in helping her community in Rosario town now that her children are all grown up. She is active in socio-civic work, leading the nongovernment organization Samahang Batangueña, a women's group dedicated to socio-civic work.

She also keeps herself busy in church groups like the Catholic Women's League, Mother Butler's Guild and Parish Pastoral Council.

Having been a nurse, helping people is perhaps second nature for Myrna. A government scholar at the Philippine General Hospital, she worked there for five years before taking a chance abroad. She had to leave to help her family.

Her father Monico was her family's breadwinner and when he met an accident, her family almost became paralyzed.

FOR CONSTANTLY keeping in touch, Myrna Punay (second from left) and her family win the Oustanding OFW Family Award for Luzon from Globe AutoloadMAX.

"My father was held up, and the thief stabbed him in the back," said Myrna, who was 5 years old then. "The knife hit my father's spinal column, causing him to be a paraplegic."

Her father had to stay in the hospital to recover, her mother attending to his needs. Myrna and her siblings stayed with relatives.

"My father learned repairing watches while he was on rehab," Myrna says. "He became good with it that he became one of the instructors in the rehab."

Her father would never recover from the accident, Myrna recalls. Monico was resigned to the fact that he would be disabled for life, she says. But his disability led him to a newfound job of watch repairing.

Driven to give her family improved living conditions, Myrna left for Riyadh to work as a nurse.

"My salary [at the PGH] was P100 a week," she says. "We had allowances and some perks, but still, it wasn't enough to support my family."

She decided to seek a better paying job in Saudi Arabia, one of the top destinations for overseas Filipino workers. In the 1970's, demand for Filipino workers, including nurses, steadily increased. After five years of working at PGH, she left in 1978 and went abroad.

Fighting homesickness

In Riyadh, she made adjustments to the working condition while battling homesickness. Frequent phone calls and letters helped weather the homesickness. She worked in Riyadh Al-Kharj Hospital for eight years, earning as much as 7,600 rials a month.

Myrna also met her husband in Riyadh. Mario worked in the Ministry of Water and Agriculture as a civil engineer when they met. It must have been a date with destiny as the two never parted ways again. They eventually got married.

The newlyweds continued to work in Riyadh. In 1986, they packed their bags, went back to the country and settled down for good. With their savings—Myrna says her husband was spendthrift—they returned to their roots and ventured into business.

Realizing the sacrifice Myrna did for them, her family invested her remittances in business. In 1984, her family put up a pawnshop. When she came home two years after, she personally managed the business. In 1994, her husband ventured into construction.

With the demand for nurses picking up again, Myrna says she was being convinced to dust off her nursing cap and work abroad.

"My friends tell me that I should work again overseas in light of the nursing boom," Myrna says. "But I can't go back to work because my kids need me here and I am getting old, too. I don't want to leave again."

They have four children—twins Maria Jamilla and Maria Carmina, 25; Maria Lyn, 21, and Marion Joseph, 19. Her daughters have graduated from college, while her son is still in school, taking up architecture at the Far Eastern University.

Her twins now have separate lives. Maria Jamilla, who graduated from the University of Santo Tomas, teaches Music at Colegio de San Agustin, while Maria Carmina, who finished her studies at De La Salle-Lipa, works for Isla Lipana, an accounting firm. The twins go home weekly, but Myrna says they often stay in Manila due to their hectic schedules.

Her daughter Maria Lyn, who recently graduated from the University of the Philippines, is now the family's OFW, Myrna says. She works as a performer in Hong Kong Disneyland.

Smith's mother, boyfriend fight over custody of infant

NASSAU, BAHAMAS—AFTER feuding over where to bury Anna Nicole Smith, the former Playboy Playmate's mother and boyfriend are preparing for another fight—this time in the Bahamas, for custody of Smith's 5-month-old daughter.

The grandmother, Virgie Arthur, claims she could provide a more stable home for the infant, who stands to inherit a fortune. She wants to wrest guardianship from Howard K. Stern, who is listed as Dannielynn's father on the birth certificate but faces a three-way paternity dispute.

A hearing on Monday is not likely to resemble Thursday's bizarre courtroom scene in Florida, where a weeping judge announced before news cameras that he wanted Smith buried in the Bahamas.

The proceedings in Nassau are conducted in private, and a judge issued a gag order at the opening session Thursday to limit the information released publicly by attorneys from both sides. Arthur and Stern missed that session because they were in court in Florida, but are expected to appear on Monday.

BIRKHEAD, Smith's ex-boyfriend AP

ARTHUR, the mother of Smith AP

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Isaacs, the judge hearing the case, has barred Stern from taking the infant out of the island nation until a custody ruling. It was not clear when that might come.

An attorney for Larry Birkhead, an ex-boyfriend of Smith who claims he fathered the baby girl, filed a motion in the Supreme Court claiming paternity for his client. His attorneys in the United States said they planned to come to the Bahamas on Monday to seek custody.

On Friday, Birkhead attorney Debra Opri asked a Florida court to enforce a California judge's orders so he can get DNA samples from Smith's body and the baby, but the judge said the decision could belong to authorities in the Bahamas.

"This child is in the Bahamas. The jurisdiction is in the Bahamas," said Broward County Circuit Judge Lawrence Korda.

Birkhead's attorneys said they had sent doctors to the Bahamas to do DNA testing, and that the doctors were turned away because they did not have work permits.

Frederic von Anhalt, the husband of actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, also says he may be the father.

Smith, who moved to the islands during her pregnancy last year, died Feb. 8 after she was found unconscious in a Florida hotel room. The cause of death is under investigation.

In another Nassau courtroom Monday, a hearing is scheduled with Supreme Court Justice Anita Allen in a dispute over the gated, waterfront mansion where Smith had been living with Stern, according to Godfrey Pinder, a Bahamian attorney for the South Carolina developer who says he owns the house.

The developer, G. Ben Thompson, who briefly dated Smith, says he advanced her money for the $900,000 house known as "Horizons" but she did not honor an agreement to pay the mortgage. Smith had claimed the house was a gift.

Pinder said Stern would have to vacate the house immediately if his client wins the verdict. "He's occupying the house illegally," he said. *AP*

Chimps, humans split from common ancestor 4M years ago, says study

WASHINGTON—A NEW STUDY, certain to be controversial, maintains that chimpanzees and humans split from a common ancestor just four million years ago—a much shorter time than current estimates of five million to seven million years ago.

The researchers compared the DNA of chimpanzees, humans and our next-closest ancestor, the gorilla, as well as orangutans.

They used a well-known type of calculation that had not been previously applied to genetics to come up with their own "molecular clock" estimate of when humans became uniquely human.

"Assuming orangutan divergence 18 million years ago, speciation time of human and chimpanzee is consistently around four million years ago," they wrote in their study.

"Primate evolution is a central topic in biology and much information can be obtained from DNA sequence data," Dr. Asger Hobolth of North Carolina State University said in a statement.

The theory of a molecular clock is based on the premise that all DNA mutates at a certain rate. It is not always a steady rate but it evens out over the millennia and can be used to track evolution.

Experts agree that humans split off from a common ancestor with chimpanzees several million years ago and that gorillas and orangutans split off much earlier. But it is difficult to date precisely when, although most recent studies have put the date at somewhere around five million to seven million years ago.

Hobolth and colleagues from the University of Aarhus in Denmark and the University of Oxford in Britain looked at four regions of the human, chimpanzee, and gorilla genomes.

They used a statistical technique called the hidden Markov model, developed in the 1960s and originally applied to speech recognition.

What they found directly contradicts some other recent research. They found evidence that it took only 400,000 years for humans to become a separate species from the common chimp-human ancestor. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Canada's top court strikes down antiterror measures

OTTAWA—Canada's high court on Friday quashed extraordinary security detentions of foreigners suspected of terror ties without charges for many years, saying they breach civil rights. Lawyers for three men with alleged terror links asked the Supreme Court of Canada in June 2006 to review the so-called security certificates. They were backed by 11 civil rights groups. The nine justices said in their decision: "The procedure, under (sections) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, is inconsistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and hence of no force or effect." However, the law will remain in effect for one year to allow Parliament to amend it. Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day said he would "carefully" review the decision. "In the interim, the security certificate process remains in place." The certificates allow secret court hearings, undisclosed evidence and indefinite incarceration as part of Canada's immigration act since 1978. *AFP*

US forces seize son of top Shiite in Iran

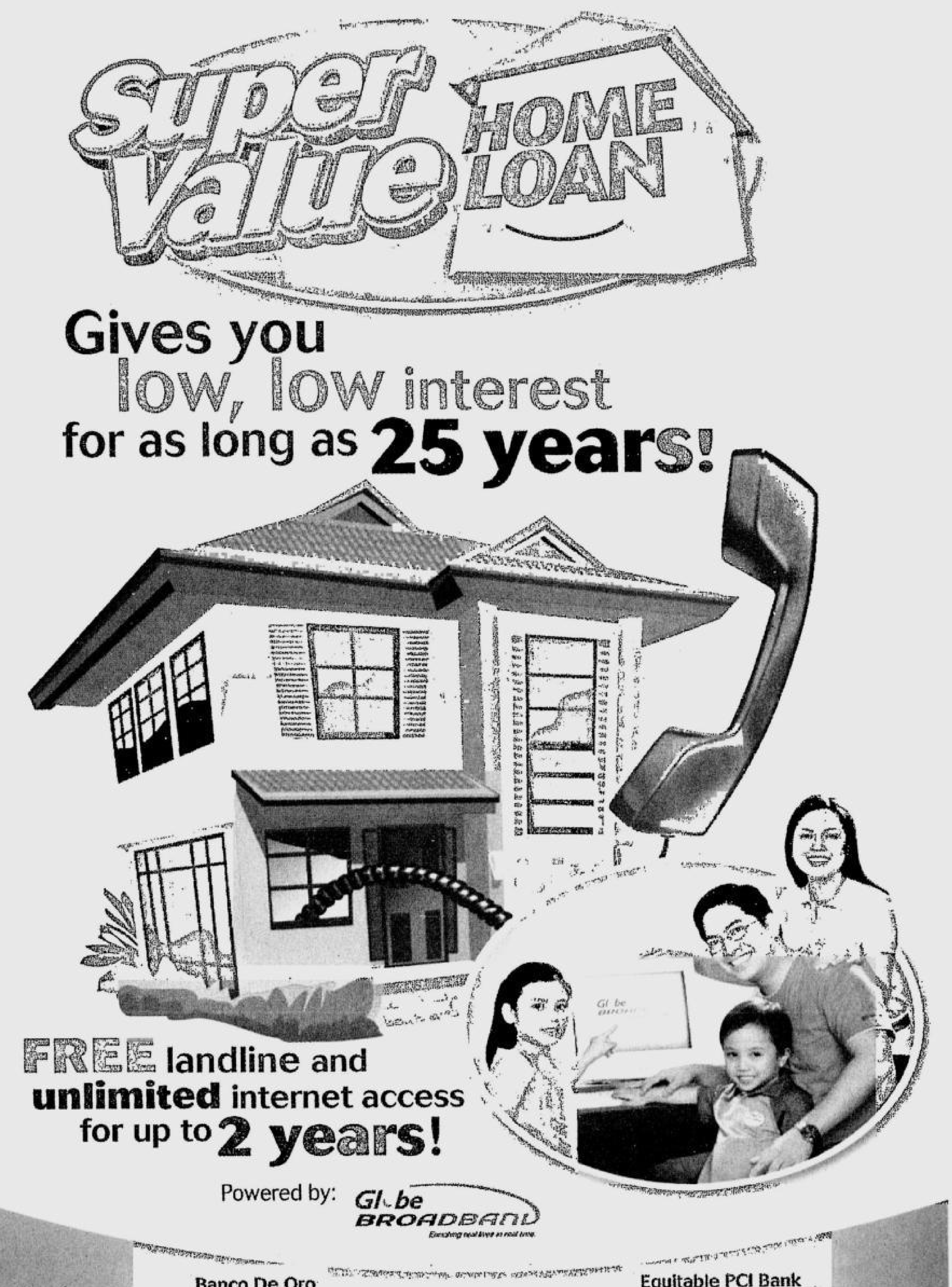
BAGHDAD, Iraq—American troops seized and then released the eldest son of Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, perhaps the most powerful Shiite political leader in Iraq, after he crossed the border from Iran into Iraq on Friday morning. The detention heightened tensions with one of Iraq's most formidable political movements just as American troops were massing in Baghdad to try to rescue the capital from the grip of Shiite militias and Sunni insurgents. Allies of the Hakim family denounced the detention as a serious insult, and a senior adviser to the family asserted that American forces also beat several guards. The Hakims control the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the backbone of the Shiite political alliance that has dominated politics during the occupation. State-run television reported that Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki, a Shiite who depends on Hakim's support, intervened to help release the son, Amar Abdul Aziz al-Hakim. *NYT*

Italy's Prodi looks set to return as premier

ROME—Italy's Romano Prodi appeared set to return to the prime minister's office this weekend after forcing his fractious center-left coalition into line. On Friday President Giorgio Napolitano said that he would announce a decision Saturday on how to resolve the crisis sparked by Prodi's abrupt resignation earlier this week. Napolitano has spent the last two days in consultations with political leaders in the wake of Prodi's resignation on Wednesday following his failure to win a vote of confidence in his foreign policy. Two communist senators in his coalition voted against him in protest at Prodi's approval of a planned enlargement of a US military base and the decision to keep Italian troops in Afghanistan. On Thursday, Prodi, 67, got his coalition to agree a 12-point "non-negotiable" political pact which includes support for Italy's 2,000-troop deployment in Afghanistan and other foreign commitments. Prodi, whose coalition narrowly won last April's elections, also secured a commitment to a high-speed train linking the northern city of Turin to Lyon, France, a project opposed by Green members of his ruling group. *AFP*

More British troops for Afghanistan

LONDON—Defense Secretary Des Browne on Friday criticized Nato allies for failing to support Afghanistan, as he confirmed Britain is to bolster its 5,600-strong force in the troubled country. Browne said London has decided to send more British troops to the volatile southern Helmand province because efforts to get more help from Nato partners like Germany, France, Italy and Spain had failed. "We have been trying hard to get other nations to live up to the joint commitment Nato made to Afghanistan and provide more forces; forces which are authorized to fight," he said in a statement. "We will continue to press. But we must be realistic. We have decided that it is right for the United Kingdom to provide some additional forces for the southern region." Media reports Friday suggested that more than 1,000 extra troops will be sent. *AFP*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Israel seeks US go-ahead for Iran attack

LONDON—ISRAEL IS SEEKING PERMISSION FROM THE United States to fly its jets over Iraq to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, The Daily Telegraph newspaper said Saturday, citing sources.

A senior Israeli defense official told the conservative British broadsheet in a dispatch from Tel Aviv that negotiations were taking place for the US-led coalition in Iraq to provide an "air corridor" over Iraq if the Jewish state decided on unilateral action.

"We are planning for every eventuality, and sorting out issues such as these are crucial," the official said.

"If we don't sort these issues out we could have a situation where American and Israeli war planes start shooting at each other."

Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has in the past called for Israel to be wiped off the map.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) issued a report Thursday saying that Iran had not halted, and in fact had expanded, its uranium enrichment program, defying a United Nations Security Council demand to stop by this week.

The United States, France and Britain have called for tougher Security Council sanctions on Tehran, while Germany, China and Russia have taken softer stances. Iran denies US charges that it seeks nuclear weapons.

An Israeli officer involved in the military planning told The Daily Telegraph: "One of the last issues we have to sort out is how we actually get to the targets in Iran. The only way to do this is to fly through US-controlled air space in Iraq."

A senior Israeli security official who works on the strategic committee set up to deal with the Iran threat, chaired by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said: "The amount of effort we are putting into this single issue is unprecedented in the history of the State of Israel," the newspaper reported.

Israel has refused to rule out preemptive military action against Iran. Israeli warplanes in 1981 destroyed the Osirak nuclear reactor near Baghdad after suspecting Iraq of aiming to build nuclear weapons. *AFP*

Cheney says 'all options' in play on Iran

SYDNEY—US VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY said Saturday that Washington favors a diplomatic approach to Tehran's atomic program but refused to rule out using force to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

CHENEY REUTERS

"It would be a serious mistake if a nation like Iran were to become a nuclear power," Cheney warned during a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. "All options are still on the table."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has issued a report saying that Iran had not halted, and in fact had expanded, its uranium enrichment program, defying a UN Security Council demand to stop by this week.

The United States, France and Britain have called for tougher UN Security Council sanctions on Tehran, while Germany, China and Russia have taken softer stances. Iran denies US charges that it seeks nuclear weapons.

"We've worked with the European Community and through the United Nations to put in place a set of policies to persuade the Iranians to give up their aspirations," said Cheney. "That's still our preference.

"The next step now is being debated, between our government and the others involved," added Cheney, who had been asked whether he felt any frustration about the pace of diplomatic activity to resolve the tense standoff.

US Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns was meeting with top European diplomats in London Saturday to decide "the future course of action we want to pursue with respect to the United Nations sanctions and so forth," he said.

Cheney's comments came at the tail end of a weeklong visit to Japan and Australia, two staunch US allies rattled by Washington's strategies in Iraq and North Korea and eager to discuss issues roiling bilateral ties.

The vice president and the prime minister discussed issues including China's rise—the subject of tough words from Cheney on Friday—and the fate of Australia's David Hicks, held as a terrorist suspect at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Cheney promised that Hicks, this country's sole detainee at the US-run facility, was "near the head of the queue" for trial and confirmed that he would serve his sentence in his homeland if found guilty. *AFP*

US rejects ban on cluster bombs

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES ON Friday rejected an international call to abandon the use of cluster bombs, state department spokesperson Sean McCormack said.

"We ... take the position that these munitions do have a place and a use in military inventories, given the right technology as well as the proper rules of engagement," McCormack said.

Forty-six countries meeting in Oslo on Friday pledged to seek a treaty banning cluster bombs by next year, with major user and stockpiler Britain and manufacturer France signing on, Norway said.

"We, ourselves, have already taken a couple of other steps with regard to technical upgrades to cluster munitions, as well as looking very closely at the rules of engagement, how they are used," said McCormack.

"So it is something that over the course of the years we have looked at very closely. We have taken very seriously the international discussion with respect to the threat posed by unexploded ordnance to innocent civilians," he said.

Japan, Poland and Romania refused to sign the accord, while key nations such as Israel and the United States did not take part in the conference.

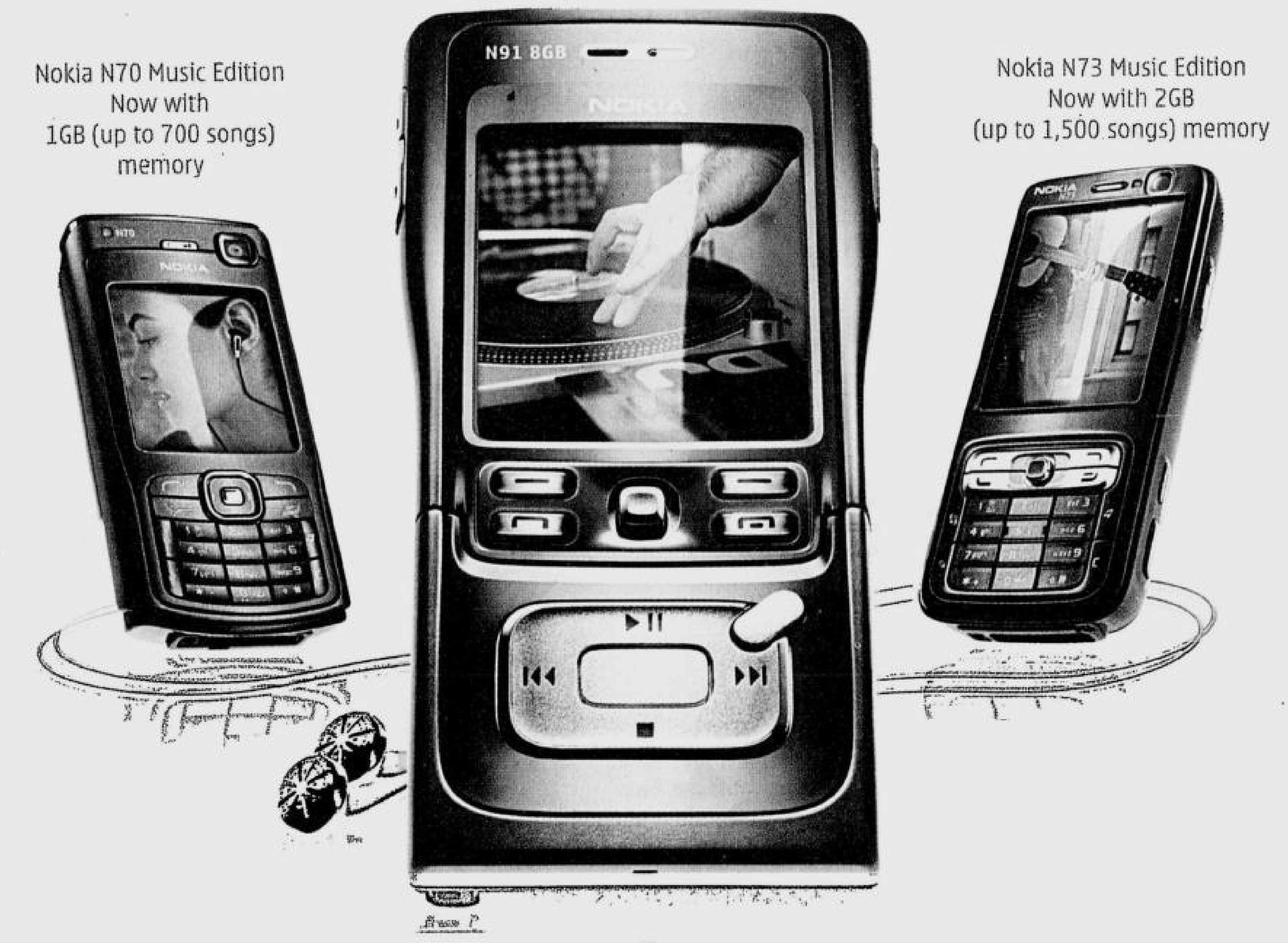
The 46 countries agreed to "commit themselves to ... conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that will prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians," according to the declaration.

A number of leading countries, including Britain and France, had previously said they wanted a ban to be part of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, a process which Norway and a number of other nations consider to be a failure.

A cluster bomb is a container holding hundreds of smaller bomblets. It opens in mid-air and disperses the bomblets over a large area.

The smaller bombs do not always explode on impact, which means they can continue to kill innocent civilians years later.

A recent report by Handicap International claimed that 98 percent of casualties from cluster munitions are noncombatants. *AFP*



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Reyes unveils national team

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CAGUIOA

DELA CRUZ

DE OCAMPO

HATFIELD

HELTERBRAND

HONTIVEROS

PENNISI

RAYMUNDO

RITUALO

SEIGLE

TAULAVA

'We have a very quick team that can pick apart defenses'

By Musong R. Castillo

CALL IT THE DREAM TEAM.

Not because this 12-man squad is super talented or ultra star-studded, but because the Filipinos' long-cherished dream of making it back to the Olympics begins with this assembly of multi-millionaire professionals.

National coach Chot Reyes yesterday named the members of the team that the Philippines will parade in its first foray into the international scene since regaining playing rights from the international basketball federation (Fiba).

The squad's members are Rudy Hatfield, Danny Seigle, Tony dela Cruz, Kerby Raymundo, Ranidel de Ocampo, Asi Taulava, Mick Pennisi, Jimmy Alapag, Dondon Hontiveros, Ren-Ren Ritualo, Mark Caguioa and Jay-Jay Helterbrand.

Rommel Adducul, Rafi Reavis and Enrico Villanueva are the alternates of the all-pro team that will be prepared for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship and then the Fiba-Asia tournament in Tokoshima, Japan, in July-August.

The Seaba, which will take place in May— and which the country might end up hosting—is the qualifier for the Japan tournament, which in turn is the qualifier for the Beijing Olympics.

"We have a very quick team that can break people (defenses) down," said Reyes, who made the announcement together with PBA commissioner Noli Eala, during a brief conference in Libis, Quezon City.

"We have players who really want to be in the team and that gives me a lot of optimism. Now that it is done (getting Fiba recognition and naming the team), the easy part is over."

Though Reyes would not admit it, the Filipinos are expected to steamroll lightweight opposition in the Seaba championship and gain a berth in the Fiba-Asia slated July 28 to Aug. 4.

"This is not automatic," Reyes said. "Whether it (the lineup) is overkill or not is immaterial, what matters is that you go (to a tournament) with the best resources possible."

The Philippine team needs at least a second-place finish in the Seaba to qualify to the Fiba-Asia. And that will be a foregone conclusion if, as INQUIRER sources say, the country hosts it as expected in May.

If only because of a larger field, the fight for an Olympic berth gets mighty hard in the Tokoshima tournament. Aside from Asian Games runner-up Qatar and host Japan, traditional Asian powerhouses like South Korea and Lebanon will be in the fold to contest two seats in the Beijing Games.

The last time a Filipino quintet played in the Olympics was in 1972 in Munich, where a team that included William "Bogs" Adornado, Manny Paner, Adriano "Jun" Papa, Ed Ocampo and Narciso Bernardo finished 13th.

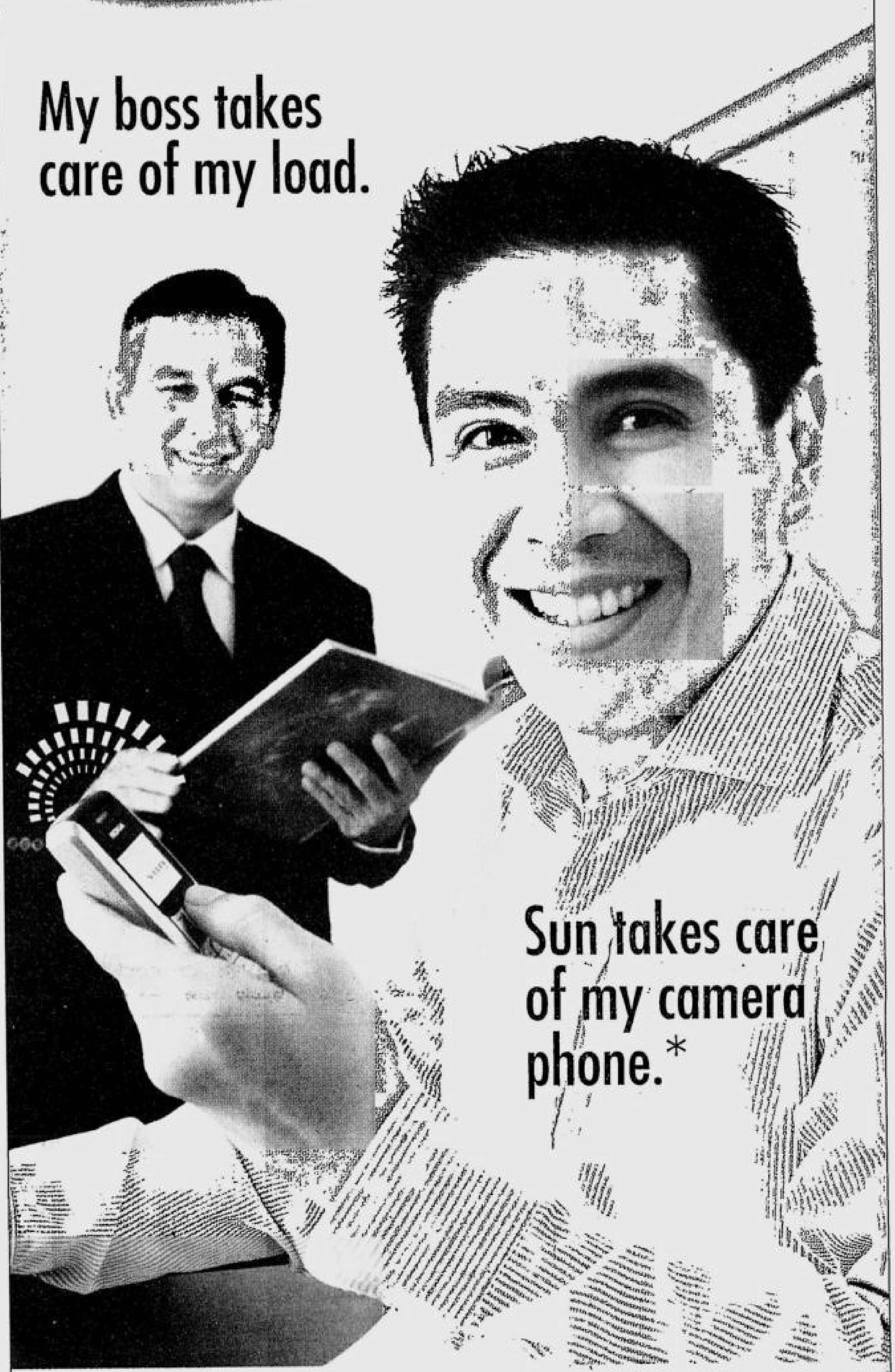
"The real question is how well they can play together," Reyes said of his team. "We (coaching staff) wanted to make sure that we have the best team, which is not necessarily the best talent."

Reyes arrived at the final roster after long sessions with members of his coaching staff that includes Aboy Castro and Binky Favis, as well as former RP team coaches Tim Cone, Jong Uichico and Norman Black.

Practice will start on March 5, and Reyes said he will pit his team against PBA squads during the import-flavored Fiesta Conference that begins this Sunday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

From there, they will fly to the United States for a two-week camp early in April, before playing in an invitational tournament in Australia.

A European tour has also been confirmed for the team in June, as well as a stint in the tough Qatar Invitationals and another one in Manila before they plane to Japan around a week before the Fiba-Asia.



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2nd title sweep for Canlubang

Sweeties annex 14th PAL Interclub championship

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

TEAM captain Luigi Yulo (4th from left), senior's division star Tommy Manotoc (fifth from left) and the rest of the Canlubang squad flash the number four sign to symbolize their second straight "double" victory. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

CAGAYAN DE ORO—DEFENDING champion Canlubang delivered the coup de grace in the front nine then coasted to its record high 14th title—and second victory double—in the 60th Philippine Airlines Interclub golf tournament here Saturday.

The final margin was 24 points as Canlubang posted a 573-549 rout of Manila Southwoods behind a final-round charge sparked by Mark Fernando, Jonel Ababa and Seniors-bound Dave Hernandez, who all submitted one-under-par 71s worth 37 points at the Pueblo de Oro course.

Boyet Saragoza's 35, which beat by one the 34 of Canlubang fifth man Mario Labajo, rounded out the explosive final-day effort by the Laguna-based squad, which had the championship all wrapped up after the first nine holes by adding 13 points to its already solid overnight lead of 12.

The day's scoreline ended at 146-134 in favor of Canlubang as Southwoods, which lost its title by only four points last year in Davao, somehow trimmed the margin through Asian Gamers Michael Bibat and Gene Bondoc, who rallied in the back nine to finish with 36 and 35 points, respectively.

Erwin Vinluan added a 34 and one of the 29 from Jun Jun Plana and Miko Yee counted for Southwoods, whose stars were outplayed by their counterparts who developed their talents in Calatagan as scholars of the Philippine Golf Development Association program initiated by Tommy Manotoc, Tony Arevalo and businessman-sportsman Hermie Esguerra.

"They played very well," said Southwoods skipper Thirdy Escano, acknowledging the strong play of the Calatagan trainees, most of them former bag-toters from the Apo course in Davao who were discovered in the last two national caddies tournaments organized by the PGDA.

Del Monte, with Jett Plete also chalking up 37 points, wound up third for the second straight year at 530 as it failed to conjure the same magic that turned the Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, team into the surprise champion in 2004, when it was also the co-host here with Pueblo.

Team captain Yoyong Velez attributed part of Del Monte's puny scoring to pressure, noting his boys played very well three years ago because they were ranked underdogs and nothing big was expected from them.

Canlubang team captain Luigi Yulo, who helped his team capture a second straight Seniors crown last Sunday, said he did not doubt the victory after rookies Rufino Bayron and Paul Echavez, both former Apo boys, helped turn back the rallying Southwoods in the third round.

Bayron shot a tournament-best 66 for 42 points at Del Monte while Echavez, who caddied for Manotoc in the Seniors and gained vital knowledge on how to play both Del Monte and Pueblo, again counted with 33.

But while he finished with 78 points for two rounds, Bayron had to give up the individual scoring title to teammate Mark Fernando, who played both courses and totaled 76. Bayron saw action only at Del Monte and, according to tournament rules, could not contend for the individual title.

"We'll never get tired of winning," said Yulo, whose team first won in 1977 and holds the record for consecutive victories with four starting in 2000,

Meanwhile, Cebu Country Club held off Orchard to rule the Founders division by seven points, 485-478. Wack Wack was third with 470.

As expected, Valley (468) and Maharlika (362) prevailed pulling away in the Sportswriters and Friendship divisions, respectively.

The final standings:

CHAMPIONSHIP—Canlubang 573 (149-133-145--146); Manila Southwoods 549 (138-135-142-134); Del Monte 530 (137-131-127-135); Riviera 412 (97-104-110-101); Tagaytay 385 (88-93-109-95); Saranggani 376 (80-104-95-97); Fil-Am Hawaii 355 (112-77-75-91); Bay Area 307 (74-65-82-86); Pinoy Vancouver 299 (94-77-69-59); SFO Heritage 282 (89-71-55-67); Club Filipino 277 (75-66-59-77); Fil-Am Fairfield 253 (60-58-70-65); Fil-Oz Sydney 250 (85-69-52-44); Moffet Fields 226 (69-51-58-48); Shanghai 207 (80-72-27-28); EZ Par 201 (50-50-54-47); Las Vegas 179 (60-40-47-32); Washington DC 178 (50-37-57-34).

FOUNDERS—Cebu Country Club 485 (109-133-118-125); Orchard 478 (20-122-109-127); Wack Wack 470 (116-120-114-120); Negros 468 (109-119-116-124); Pueblo de Oro 444 (108-119-104-110); Forest Hills 439 (101-115-106-117); Sta. Elena 423 (102-898-103-120); Rancho Palos Verdes 391 (87-109-93-102); Sherwood 371 (92-106-80-93)

SPORTSWITERS—Valley 468 (122-115-114-117); Villamor 444 (105-124-99-116); Mactan Coral 430 (99-113-101-117).

FRIENDSHIP—Maharlika 362 (112-91-81-78); Stanford 347 (90-80-83-94); South Cotabato 309 (67-65-89-88); Fil-Am Florida 309 (81-75-85-68); Guinhalaran 294 (85-62-75-72); UP Tee Jots 283 (88-73-57-65); Crystal Springs 278 (79-66-76-57); IAGC San Diego 270 (90-76-57-47); PGA British Columbia 266 (56-86-80-43); Seattle 258 (56-48-81-73); Sky West 250 (63-57-62-68);Mt. Malindang 247 (73-45-66-63); Australasian Melbourne 179 (78-49-52-63); Bacolod 238 (73-51-60-53); Paga San Jose 223 (71-51-60-41); Cotabato 220 (58-43-63-56); Riyadh FGA 169 (36-43-58-32); Mountain Shadows 168 (40-37-39-52)

Pasig River marathon turns into battle of champions

DAYBREAK WILL BE A VIRTUAL melting pot of champions as the country's topnotch runners vie for the crown in the Philippine Marathon for the Pasig River at 4:30 a.m. today.

National record holder Eduardo Buenavista and former PMPR champions Crisanto Canillo (2002 and 2003), Roy Vence (2004), Bernardo Desamito (2005) and Cresenciano Sabal (2006) are expected to set the pace in the arduous 42K route that will fire off from the grounds of the Manila Cathedral and wound up at at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

National team member Jho-an Banayag will also be back to defend her title in the women's division.

Five foreign runners—Robert Wangbugo of Kenya, Roland Heinmuller of Germany, Barry Pearce of England, Abraham Lim of the United States and Luis Vieira of Mexico—will be adding an international flavor to the only local marathon included in the sport's world calendar.

"The number (of participants) just keeps growing every year," said PMPR race director Gay Maddela.

BUENAVISTA

From Intramuros, the course will take the runners through road networks along the banks and over the Pasig River through its 11 major bridge from Del Pan-Rojas Bridge at the mouth of the Pasig River and Manila Bay to C-5/President Garcia Bridge near its main tributary, the Laguna de Bay.

The 42K men's champion will receive a P100,000 prize. The runner-up will take home P50,000, while the third placer will get P30,000.

A P75,000 prize awaits the 42K women's winner, while the second and third placers will win P40,000 and P20,000 respectively.

In the men and women's 10K event, the top finisher will get P10,000, while the runners-up will win P7,500 and P5,000. The 5K and 3K winners will win P5,000 each.

The PMPR, formerly known as the Pasig River Heritage Marathon, is accredited by the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAFF) and the Association of International Marathons and Road Races (AIMS).

Now on its seventh edition, the PMPR is organized by the Clean & Green Foundation Inc. for the government's Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

The event is sponsored by Herma Shipping and Group of Companies, Unilever, INQUIRER, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Trans Asia, Shell, SM Foundation, San Miguel Corporation, Zuellig Pharma, Ayala Corporation, Pagcor, Phinma, Mabuhay Vinyl, Asahi Glass, Burlington, Powerade, Fortune General, Activade and Barbaras.

Japan's Toshiaki Isoi, Great Britain's Laureen Gibson, France's Sophie Hamada, Australia's Debra Hermann and Jennifer Duncombe will be among the C&GFI international volunteers.

Jasmine W. Payo

PSC asks AFP: Release athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION has filed a request on behalf of the national athletes who are in the active duty of the Armed Forces to get their "release papers" so they can focus on training for the coming international competitions.

PSC commissioner Richie Garcia yesterday said the agency has already made representations before the AFP as early as January to allow some 300 national athletes who are also enlisted personnel to go back to training.

However, the AFP, according to Garcia, is concerned that most of these enlisted men still need to undergo basic training from the different units of the Armed Forces.

"They are also concerned that some of the national athletes who are also on the payroll of the AFP might not be eligible or maybe some might be overaged," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

Just the same, the PSC has provided the AFP a list of its national pool members who are in active duty in the Army, Air Force and Navy to serve as guide for its verification.

Garcia estimated that of the 800 national athletes, some 300 are also in the AFP as part of the military corps. They are also utlilized to beef up their respective units in the annual AFP Olympics.

Among the national sports associations which asked the PSC for assistance is boxing. Rowing also lodged a similar complaint earlier after its best athletes got recalled for duty which caused a conflict with their training schedule.

Karatedo, taekwondo, table tennis and track and field are also some of the disciplines who have gold-medal winners enlisted in the military.

Some of the brightest athletes actively serving in the military include Doha Asian Games gold medalists Joan Tipon and Violito Payla, who are heavily favored to book slots to the Olympics in Beijing next year.

The Philippines is honing at least 40 athletes for the gold medal mission in the 2008 Games, aside from preparing to defend the overall championship in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games this December.

Garcia, who is co-chair of the joint Task Force SEA Games, said the issue was one of the concerns during the agency's meeting with Philippine Olympic Committee executive board members.

Salvador hangs tough, pads Razon lead to 4

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—ELMER SALVADOR continued to pull surprises in the P4.4 million Don Pocholo Razon Invitational, shooting a one-under-par 69 yesterday to take a four-stroke lead into the final round today.

The 32-year-old flourished in the company of his celebrated flightmates, his 54-hole aggregate of 204 now four clear of Angelo Que, the Asian Tour veteran who finally made his move with a 67.

Gerald Rosales, the RP Open runner-up, and 2004 winner Jherome Delariarte tried, and failed, to apply pressure on Salvador, floundering with identical 73s to drop down the leaderboard.

And that left Que, the inaugural Carlsberg Masters Vietnam winner in 2004, alone in second spot with a 208 total, even as Artemio Murakami grabbed a piece of third place with Rosales after a 67 for 209.

Salvador, the first-round leader last year who lost composure and ground the next three days to eventually finish fourth, played with the poise of a grizzled veteran yesterday and now looks ready for his first major victory.

"I will try to stay focused, play my game and not be intimidated," Salvador said in Filipino.

A windfall of P1.3 million awaits him if he can hold it all together for another 18 holes at windswept The Country Club.

"I just have to be smart with the putts (in the final round)," Salvador added.

Sentimental favorite Frankie Miñoza, who won a second RP Open crown two weeks ago, still could not get it going. The 47-year-old native of Bukidnon turned in a third straight over-par card, a 73 this time, to drop 10 strokes off the pace and out of it all at 214.

Delariarte was joined at 211 by 1990 RP Open winner Robert Pactolerin, who added a 72 to a 69 and a 70 in the first two rounds.

They were two strokes ahead of teen amateur Dottie Ardina, who fired a 72 for solo sixth spot.

Mars Pucay fired a 72, Tony Lascuña a 73 and Cookie La'O ballooned to a 76 to be at 216.

Inaugural winner Cassius Casas turned in a second straight 72 to pace two others in the next group with 217s.

ELMER Salvador birdies No. 11. ROMY HOMILLADA

The third-round scores:

204—E. Salvador 67-68-69 (36-33)

208—A. Que 69-72-67 (33-34)

209—A. Murakami 70-72-67 (33-34); G. Rosales 66-70-73 (33-34)

211—J. Delariarte 68-70-73 (36-37); R. Pactolerin 69-70-72 (33-39)

213—D. Ardina (Am) 74-67-72 (37-35)

214—F. Miñoza 73-72-71 (36-35)

216—M. Pucay 71-73-72 (34-38); C. La'O 70-70-76 (38-38); T. Lascuna 71-72-73 (34-39)

217—C. Casas 73-72-72 (38-34); E. Sanchez 72-76-69 (33-36); C. Rodriguez (Am) 71-72-74 (38-36)

218—P. Miñoza 72-74-72 (37-35)

219—M. Dizon 74-73-72 (36-36); A. Balan 77-69-73 (37-36); B. Magada 71-75-73 (36-37); M. Dumandan 73-73-73 (35-38); D. Bicierra (Am) 75-74-70 (36-34)

220—R. Sasutil 72-77-71 (36-35); D. Zarate 73-74-73 (36-37); M. Piccio (Am) 70-76-74 (38-36)

221—R. Sinfuego 72-75-74 (37-37)

224—L. Dacudao 74-73-77 (39-38); A. Tanpinco (Am) 76-73-75 (38-37)

Chairman's Cup up today at Santa Ana, Miguelito favored

A GOOD NUMBER OF THIS YEAR'S bright Triple Crown hopefuls see action today as 12 crack entries slug it out for the P900,000 winner's purse in the Philracom Chairman's Cup at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Led by colts Miguelito, Golden Sutter and Ididitmyway, the P1.5-million race spread over 1,500 meters promises to give a clear picture as to who will dominate the prestigious series later in the year.

Miguelito will be reined in by the veteran Manolito F. Daquis, while ace Jonathan B. Hernandez and Jessie B. Guce will pilot Hermie Esguerra couplers Ididitmyway and Golden Sutter, respectively.

Ger Francis, a bay colt to be handled by apprentice rider JG Tinte, Legendary and the battle-scarred Tiger Raffy are the other notables in the field. Efren Salvador steers Legendary, while Ronald Baldonido partners Tigger Raffy.

Post time is 5:25 p.m. with Miguelito expected to corner a huge chunk of the bets.

Legendary is expected to be the second choice, the three-year-old chestnut son of Irish stallion Self Feeder out of American broodmare Fresh Et Sharp being a consistent campaigner in fields as strong as this one.

Storm Hall (Dominador Borbe), Amazing Jel (John Cordero), Lord Boni (Virgilio Camanero), Western City (JM Ladiana) and stayer Conquistaroyal, to be handled by Kevin Abobo, round out the entries.

Meanwhile, superhorse Real Spicy, after thumping a relatively formidable field in a class-division race more than a week ago, sees action in the third big race of the year on March 18 at San Lazaro in the Commissioner's Cup.

The handsome son of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale has been undefeated in 14 starts since last year, winning all the major stakes races he was eligible to run in and looking to be in fearsome form for the Commissioner's Cup.

Empire King and Red Star Rising, also former Presidential Gold Cup winners like Real Spicy, Manhattan and Native Land have been nominated in the P1.2 million race that will be run over 1,750 meters.

Musong R. Castillo

Jazz get back rhythm; Lakers hurdle Celtics

SMUSH PARKER of the Los Angeles Lakers shoots against the Boston Celtics at Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. AFP

Red Lions versus Tigers

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

EARLY THIS WEEK WHEN I WAS FIRST informed about the staging of the San Beda College-University of Santo Tomas battle royale, one of the highlights of the 21st anniversary celebration of the Edsa People Power, my first question to Bobong Velez was, "Who will coach the Red Lions?"

At that time, word was out that San Beda had not renewed Koy Banal's contract and everyone was speculating on who his replacement would be.

By asking this question, I thought I'd get a scoop. But Bobong did not have an answer for me then. He said he was just as in the dark as I was. Neither did he know why Koy was being given his walking papers, despite the fact that he had just won a championship for the Red Lions after a 28-year drought.

***

Bobong said the organizers of the "Unity in Sports" event initially thought of including De La Salle University in the games—not the usual Ateneo-La Salle match that would ensure a rich box office, but an Ateneo/La Salle team versus a selection.

"To stress the unity theme," according to Bobong.

The organizers got the thumbs down from the UAAP, which reminded them that the Archers were still under suspension.

"SBP president Manny Pangilinan then suggested a showdown between the college champions, who never got to see action against each other during the last Champions League because UST was eliminated early. Everyone liked the idea. It was agreed that there would be two matches on Feb. 25 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium—the SBC-UST game and another featuring some of the country's most popular actors," Bobong related.

The players were personally handpicked by Senator Jinggoy Estrada, who was being prodded to suit up but had to beg off since he was grossly overweight, out of shape and out of condition.

Some of the names in Jinggoy's list are Philip Salvador (playing coach), Jestoni Alarcon, Onyok Velasco, Jordan Herrera, Gean Padilla, Ian Veneracion, Joko Diaz, Jimwel Stevens, Ace Espinosa and Jason Abalos for the Red Team and Tirso Cruz III (playing coach), Christopher de Leon, James Blanco, Mark Fernandez, Bayani Agbayani, Zoren Legaspi, Carlos Morales, Jay Manalo, Emilio Garcia and Rayver Cruz for the White Team.

***

Yesterday, I had a chance to talk with Bobong again. This time he had a name for me. So did all the national papers.

"Frankie Lim will coach the Red Lions," he said. "He has been handling the workouts for the past week or two."

Immediately I called Frankie, curious to know how he felt on the eve of his debut.

"*Parang* first date," he said.

Why first date?

"Because you just don't know what to expect. I have been working with these kids for the past four days. I hope they react well based on the short time we have been together."

***

Bobong stressed that the games will be open to the public for free and aired live on television over NBN-4.

"Opening rites start at 3 p.m., with SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan and executive secretary Eduardo Ermita as the keynote speakers.

"It is going to be a grand sporting spectacle. Don't miss it," Bobong said.

***

HOOPVINE: By now everybody should know that Koy Banal's older brother Joel has become a member of the Alaska coaching staff ... I heard about the get-together hosted by former Crispa Redmanizer Danny Florencio for former teammates at a place called Bar One in Robinson's Galleria. Danny, who has doubled in size and weight since he migrated to the United States, introduced his new wife to the group which included Rudy Soriano, Rey Franco, Ernie de Leon, Epoy Alcantara, Billy Abarrientos, Bogs Adornado, Johnny Revilla, Philip Cezar, Atoy Co and Jun Celis, most of whom are now senior citizens or close to being one ... I heard that the old gang had a fun time singing, dancing, and mostly just reminiscing about the good old Crispa days ... I heard that the Big J is getting himself in good physical condition for a coaching job from Air21 that he is seriously considering.

NBA ON BASKETBALL TV
Game Today
(Feb. 25, Sunday)
9 a.m. — Seattle vs San Antonio
(replays @ 4 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.)

NEW YORK—THE UTAH JAZZ powered past Northwest Division rival Denver after Deron Williams scored 26 points and handed out 14 assists in a 114-104 road win on Friday.

Utah built a 21-point third-quarter lead before the Nuggets rallied behind high-scoring Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson.

Anthony finished with 36 points and Iverson had 33, but the other Denver starters scored only 14 points and no other Nuggets player was in double figures.

Denver cut the margin to nine points at 109-100 on an Iverson jumper with 2:16 remaining.

But Matt Harpring's jump shot for Utah pushed the advantage back to 11 and the Jazz controlled the remainder of the game.

Harpring finished with 22 points for Utah, which had five players in double figures.

They included forward Carlos Boozer who returned from a leg injury to score 10 points in 12 minutes of play.

The win moved the Jazz 9 ½ games ahead of the Nuggets in the division.

Jason Kidd posted his 84th career triple-double as the New Jersey Nets stopped the Sacramento Kings, 109-96. Kidd had 22 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists while playing with a cracked rib. It was his ninth triple-double of the season.

Kobe Bryant scored 25 of his 38 points in the first half as the Los Angeles Lakers ended a six-game losing streak with a 122-96 home win over the Boston Celtics. Gerald Green had 21 points for Boston.

Shawn Marion's 27 points sparked the Phoenix Suns to a 116-104 road victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The win avenged a January loss that ended the Suns's 17-game winning streak. Leandro Barbosa added 24 points and Amare Stoudemire contributed 23 for the Suns. Kevin Garnett topped Minnesota with 28 points and 19 rebounds.

The Chicago Bulls's Luol Deng matched a career high with 32 points in a 105-90 home win over the Washington Wizards.

Gilbert Arenas had 36 points for Washington.

The New Orleans Hornets hung on for a 98-97 home victory when Seattle's Ray Allen missed a jump shot at the buzzer.

David West led the Hornets with 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Allen had 32 points for the game.

The Charlotte Bobcats turned back the Philadelphia 76ers, 102-87, for a franchise record-tying fourth consecutive victory.

Adam Morrison, Matt Carroll and Gerald Wallace each had 19 points for the Bobcats. *Reuters*

O'Hern ends Woods' winning run

O'HERN: 3-and-1 win REUTERS

MARANA, ARIZONA—TIGER WOODS came close to pulling off a Houdini-like escape against Australia's Nick O'Hern before his run of seven consecutive PGA Tour titles ended at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship Friday.

Left-hander O'Hern, who beat Woods 3&1 in the second round in 2005 when the pair first met in the event, rolled in a 13-foot par putt on the 20th hole to seal a dramatic win.

World number one Woods, who trailed by four after seven holes, mounted a stirring fightback with three consecutive birdies from the 10th before missing a four-foot birdie putt for victory on the 19th green.

Champion in 2003 and 2004 when the event was held at La Costa Resort, Woods took the match into extra holes after powering a massive drive off the 18th tee and setting up another birdie with an approach to five feet.

O'Hern's next opponent will be Swede Henrik Stenson, who came from one down after six holes to beat Australian Aaron Baddeley 4&3.

Britain's Justin Rose was the first player to reach the quarter-finals with a 3&2 win over American Charles Howell III.

Also going through to the last eight were holder Geoff Ogilvy of Australia, Canada's Stephen Ames, South Africa's Trevor Immelman, American Chad Campbell and Britain's Paul Casey.

Reuters

Prammanasudh up; Jenny rallies

KAPOLEI, HAWAII—Stacy Prammanasudh shot a 4-under-68 on Friday to take a one-stroke lead in the suspended second round of the Fields Open. Filipino Jennifer Rosales carded a 70 to assure himself of making the cut at 144. Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin, who opened up with a 71, was among those who didn't finish the second round because of darkness. Prammanasudh was at 10-under - 134 and was being chased by a pack of youngsters. Rookie Angela Park was at 9 under with nine holes left, following a three-hour rain delay earlier in the day. The 18-year-old Park was among 70 players who will have to finish their rounds early Saturday. Jee Young Lee also was 9 under, with four holes left. Morgan Pressel, also 18, shot a 65 and was at 8 under.

FG Golf Cup lists beneficiaries

ARROYO

TEN MORE CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS and socio-civic groups have been named as beneficiaries of the First Gentleman Invitational Golf Tournament set on Feb. 27 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City.

Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, overall chair of the benefit golfest, said they have increased the number of beneficiaries to 14, including the four originally named earlier by First Gentleman Jose Miguel T. Arroyo.

Chua identified the additional beneficiaries as Gawad Kalinga, Philippine General Hospital, AFP-V. Luna General Hospital, Caritas Manila, St. Jude Parish, Tuloy sa Don Bosco, Bagong Doctor Para sa Bayan, Philippine School for the Deaf, the Dominican Sisters of Molo (Asilo de Molo) and Project Oyster.

The original beneficiaries of the event are the Philippine Bamboo Foundation, Lyric Opera Foundation Philippines, Rotary Club of Makati Central Foundation and the Alay sa Kawal Foundation.

Benjamin V. Ramos, secretary of the First Gentleman Foundation, Inc., said organizers have limited the number of players to 120.

Players have a chance to win a Mercedes Benz or a Toyota Camry as hole-in-one prizes

The FG Cup Secretariat is headed by Edgardo Manda and Ramos.

UGBA derby stakes P5M

SIXTEEN BREEDERS ORGANIZATIONS all over the country have joined the newly formed United Gamecock Breeders Associations (UGBA), headed by Philippine Olympic Committee president (POC) Peping Cojuangco.

The affiliates are Northeastern Luzon Breeders Association (NELBA); La Union Gamefowl Breeders Association (LUGBA); Baguio Benguet Cockers and Breeders Club; Gamefowl Breeders Association of Pangasinan (GBAP); Gamefowl Breeders Association of Tarlac (GBAT); Gamecock Breeders Organization of Nueva Ecija (GB-ONE); Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA); Quezon Gamefowl Breeders Association (QGBA); Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Association (BIGBA); Cebu Gamefowl Breeders Association (CEGBA); Salpukan Sports Association, Inc. of Davao; Northern Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association (NMGBA); Caraga Gamefowl Breeders Association; Central Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association; Cotabato Gamefowl Breeders Association (CGBA) and Panguil Bay Gamefowl Breeders Association (PBGBA).

According to Rene "Boy" Diaz, president of LBGA and spokesperson of UGBA, the groups' first project is the "UGBA Heritage Cup 8-cock/bullstag" derby beginning on March 27 at the Araneta Coliseum. A prize of P5 million is at stake for an entry fee of P11,000. For inquiries, call 926-7808 or 924-5072 (telefax) or 0920-5851940 (Taz Lunasco).

Kiamco downs Valle in NY tilt

WARREN KIAMCO SUBDUED COMPATRIOT Gandy Valle, 9-4, to pace six Filipino cue artists in the Turning Stone Classic VIII in Verona, New York.

Kiamco, a three-time Southeast Asian Games gold medalist, also turned back former world pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 9-7, in the tournament opener last Thursday.

Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and US-based Santos Sambajon were the other Filipino bets who crashed the win column.

Sambajon nipped Dan Kolacz, while Gabica edged Redgie Cutler.

Not as fortunate was Rodolfo Luat, the 2006 Asian 9-ball tour Taiwan leg winner and 2006 US Open runner-up, who bowed to Chris Szuter.

Filipino pool legend Jose "Amang" Parica, who beat Mike Gasper, 9-3, in the opener, will face the winner of the match between Bob Cunningham and George Lord.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Passing Through (4), Hand-Picked (1), Eriva's Talent (8), At All Cost (7), Kai Jason (9)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Ocean Cookie (6), Mister Cool (4), Lady Cathy (1), Words Of Joy (7)
Race 3—Vantage (1), Vitality (5), Rivendel (6), Tigres In Action (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Top Of D'Line (7), Mas Que Nada/Saholin (2), Parrot Moe (12), Sheza Winner (4)
Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Cutting Edge (5), Don Paolo (6), Ultra Rose (3), The Boss Daughter (2)
Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Harrod's Magic (11), Karma (2), Freedom Charger (1), Allysa's Choice (9), Kyanjonik (8)
Race 7—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Miguelito (8), Ididitmyway / Golden Sutter (2), Hot Shower (10), Lord Boni (7), Gern Francis (6)
Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Ginja (3), Yoshiwara (2), American Idol (9), Desert Breeze (9), Dancing Slew (5)
Race 9—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Suavetiger (1), Sweet Talk (12), Friendly Venture (6), Batangas Force (10), Crew Cut (8)
Race 10—(Ort/Tri)—Anabita (5), Monalisa (3), Olive Tan/Staunch Ally (1), Odyssey Blue (2)
Race 11—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Kaligatan (13), Mark's Rose (14), Red Hot Water (4), Honoree (11), Hall Meduim (9)
Race 12—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Spinning Bullet (3), Bundok Peninsula (5), El Love Señora (10), Bird In Hand (4), Chicklet (14)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Iron King (8), Modern Classic (11), Mary Jane Bomb/Play It Again (3), Hurry Prince (6), Fine Offer (5), Sincerity (7)

Orcollo joining World 8-ball

FILIPINO CUE MASTER DENNIS ORCOLLO is competing in the 2007 WPA World 8-Ball Championship as part of his preparation for his showdown with Taiwanese ace Yang Ching-shun on April 13-15.

Orcollo, the 2006 World Pool League champion, and compatriots Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, reigning world champion Ronnie Alcano and Alex Pagulayan are among the favorites in the tough event set March 1-8 at the Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

After his 60-rack showdown with Yang at the Gateway Mall in Cubao, Orcollo is also set to play in the inaugural Guinness Asian 9-ball tournament on April 20-22 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Orcollo and Yang will dispute the unofficial "money game king" title and the $10,000 put up by Bugsy Promotions of Perry Mariano and Rocketman Enterprises of Ramon Tuazon.

Recently, Quezon City Councilor Ariel Inton acknowledged Orcollo in the weekly council meeting. QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte has been very supportive of the Orcollo-Yang battle dubbed the "Golden Pool Classic presents: Orcollo vs Yang dubbed as it's all about the money ... and more." *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

SPORTSWATCH

2 derbies set at Makati Coliseum

THE CROWD-DRAWING PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PCAP) 5- cock derby series resumes at Makati Coliseum tomorrow. According to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., this event will be the first of two blockbuster events highly awaited at Makati Coliseum. On March 5, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao will host the Super Pacman 5-cock derby, a rare gathering of *sabong* champions invited by Pacquiao. For the PCAP derby, official entries must be submitted today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 896-3545 and 895-6475 or 0906 -2682911 (Joan or Stephanie) for details. In a related development, the WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., operator of Makati Coliseum, announced yesterday the appointment of Rey Oliveros as team leader of the WTJ Makati stag screening committee.

Rambulan starts at Mabuhay Cockpit

THE FIRST ROUND ELIMINATIONS OF NATIONAL RAMBULAN 8-COCK DERBY, an inter-cockpit event with a staggering guaranteed prize of P10.5 million, starts on Tuesday at Mabuhay Cockpit in San Fernando, Pampanga. More than 50 cockers and breeders will face one another, said pit manager Val Lagman and host Mayor Carmelo Lazatin. Other eliminations will take place at Malolos Sports Center under Oca Domingo (March 2); Isabela Breeders Cockpit headed by Tonton Uy (March 2) and San Luis Sports Complex in Samar to be hosted by Jayvee Cada (Feb. 28, March 1 and 3). In Metro Manila, competition will be staged at San Juan Coliseum on March 1, 3 and 6 (first batch) and March 19, 21 and 24 (second batch). "Eliminations and semifinals are already fully booked in 23 cockpits in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao," said Rambulan organizers Rodolfo Pineda and Butch Nunez For inquiries: 725-5369 and 725-6563 or 0917-8041691 (Maricar).

IENT
2007
ALABANG

MANGO TEE CHAMPS: Arnel Manganti (third from right) and his guest partner Arnold Duay display their trophies as overall champions of the recent 23rd Mango Tee tournament of the Alabang Country Club. With them are (from right) Mango Tee committee head Ed Lacson, Pilipinas Shell president Ed Chua, Alabang president lawyer Johnny Castillo and Julie Carceller of Smart Communications.

Dragons pocket Tiong Lian title

THE CHIANG KAI SHEK DRAGONS STRUCK hard from inside and outside the paint as they frustrated the defending champion Xavier School Golden Stallions, 68-61, in the 31st Hitachi-Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association Junior Championship at the CKSC gym. Their ninth straight victory enabled the Dragons to end a 12-year title drought. Crucial baskets by 6-foot-5 Justin Chua, Rainiel Mendoza and Ralph Lim in the last five minutes enabled the Dragons to finish their best-of-three championship series with a 2-0 sweep. Chua, had a triple-double with 15 points, 17 rebounds and 10 blocks, was named the league's Most Valuable Player. Terrence Lam showed the way for the Dragons with 17 points and five rebounds, while Jon Go delivered 16 points, six rebounds and eight assists. Gabriel Banal, son of former Talk 'N Text mentor Joel Banal, contributed 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Golden Stallions.

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Kings find a way to win

We just kept hanging in there–Jong

By Musong Castillo

JONG UICHICO WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, SO TO SPEAK, when Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer last clashed for an All-Filipino title in the PBA.

THE PERPETUAL trophy is Ginebra's prize as Kings of the Philippine Cup. RYAN LIM

That was in 2001, when San Miguel was the overwhelming favorite because of a star-studded lineup and Ginebra was trying to make do with a roster that signaled the start of a long rebuilding process.

That's why winning another all-Filipino title—when the odds really did not favor him that much—proved as sweet as the first time it happened six years ago.

"We were really strong then," a champagne-soaked Uichico told scribes after the Talk 'N Text Philippine Cup-clinching 96-94 Game 6 decision of the Beermen Friday night. "(With this team), we really had to find ways to score, unlike in 2001."

Friday night's victory marked Uichico's seventh coaching title, with all of the previous six coming with San Miguel Beer.

"This marks a new chapter in my life," Uichico said. "This is really something special because this is my first title with Ginebra. And it feels just the same as my first championship with San Miguel.

"The emotion, the excitement, you know. Nothing beats the feeling of winning."

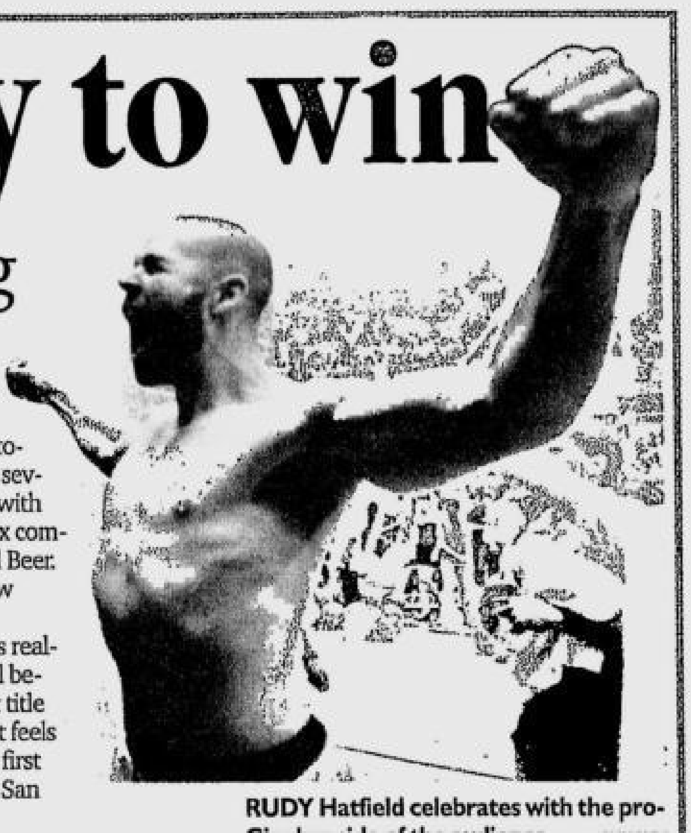
The soft-spoken coach steered the Gin Kings to the title in the manner his players know best—coming from behind.

After being 0-2 down, the Kings won the final four games with Accel Finals MVP Jay-Jay Helterbrand, the prolific Mark Caguioa and workhorse Rudy Hatfield leading the way.

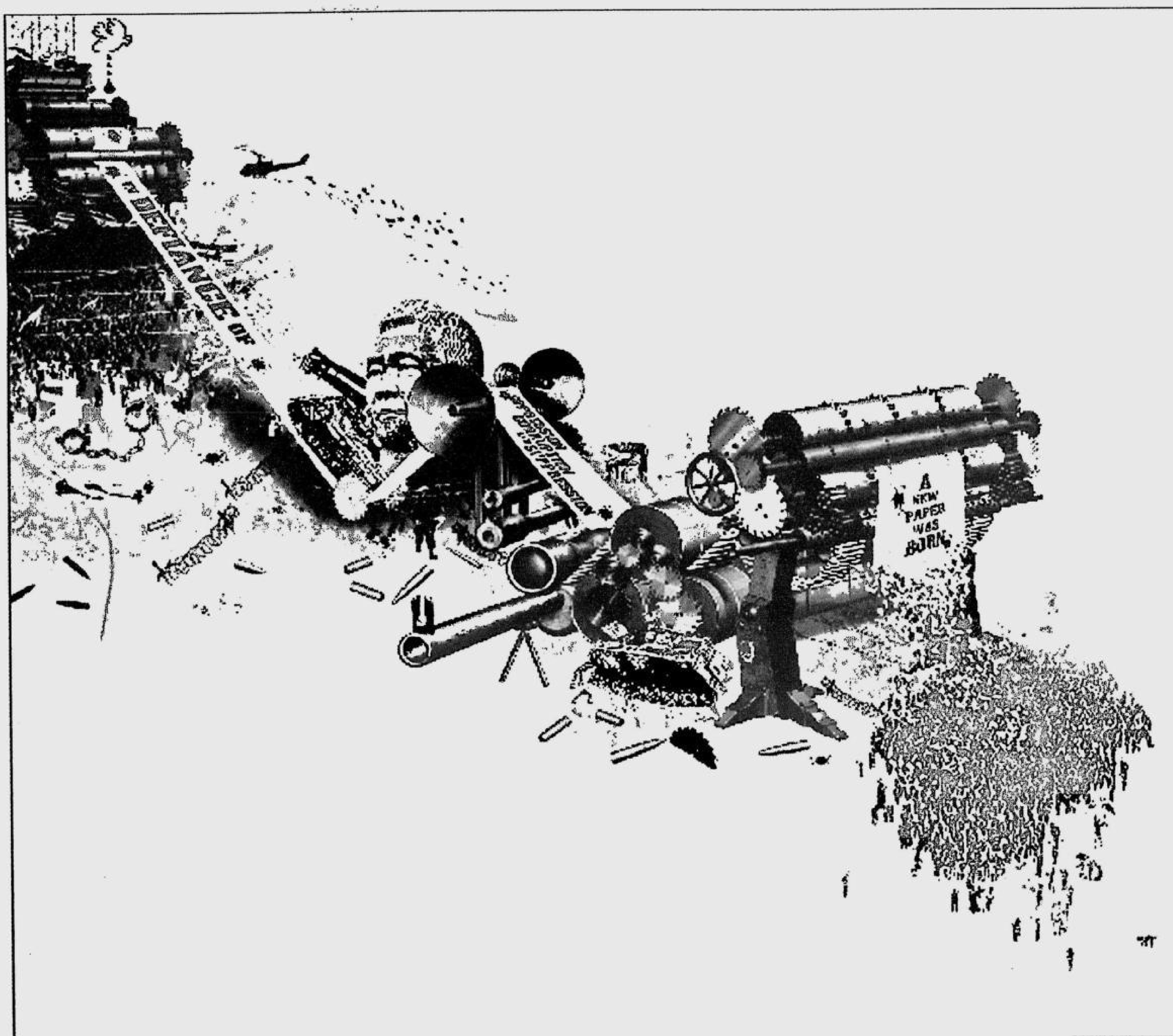
Ginebra also overhauled a 16-point second quarter deficit Friday night, with a crowd of more than 18,000 patiently goading the Kings on even if they spent most of the evening groping for form and watching the Beermen playing fluidly.

"I just told the players to hang in there and to keep their focus because something good is going to happen," Uichico narrated. "And it did happen."

And now that the lineup for the RP team has been released and with Ginebra to lose its three top scorers, Caguioa, Helterbrand and Hatfield, for the coming Fiesta Conference, it will be Uichico's job to make sure that things stay as good.



RUDY Hatfield celebrates with the pro-Ginebra side of the audience. RYAN LIM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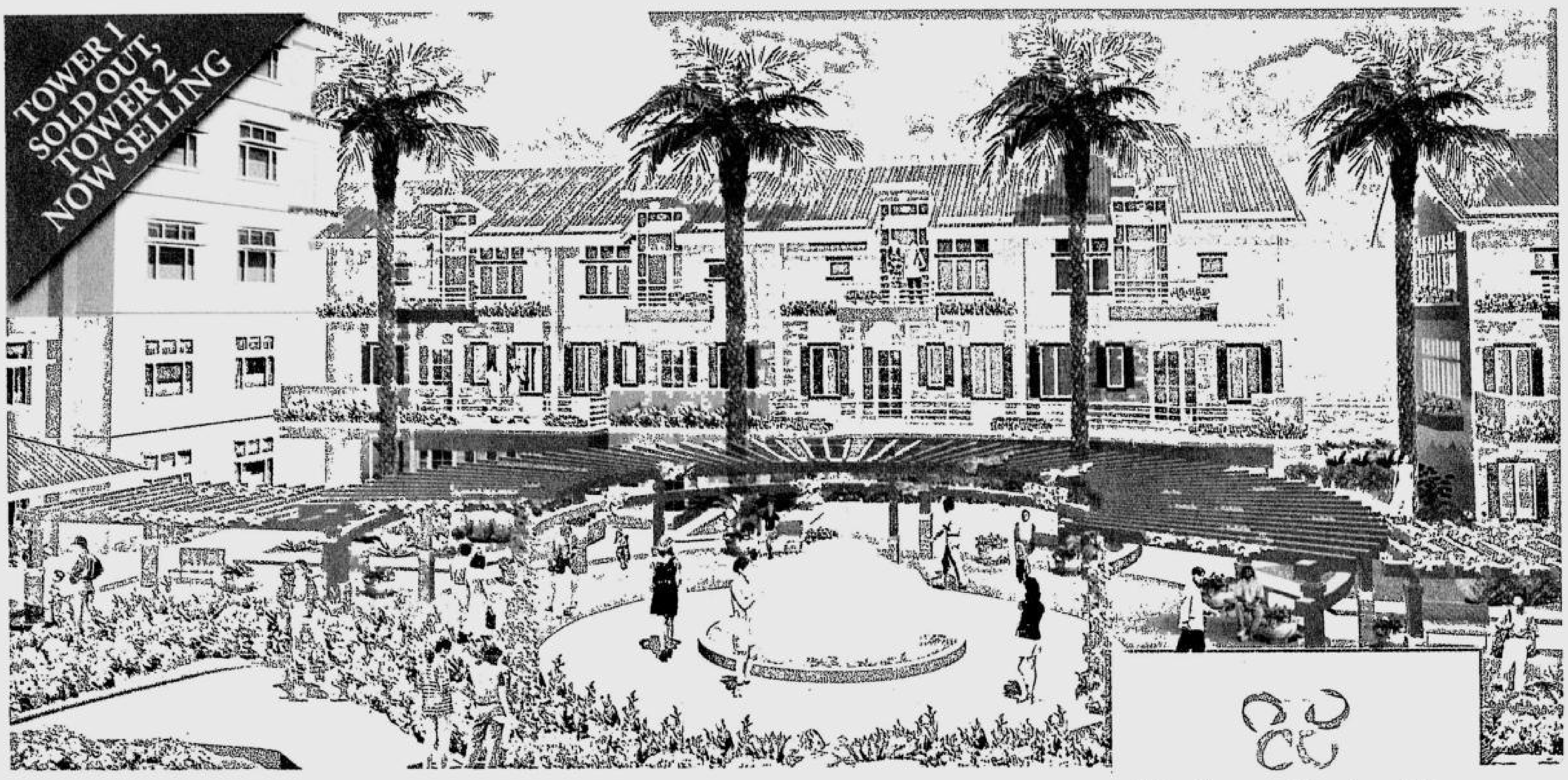
John C. Maxwell



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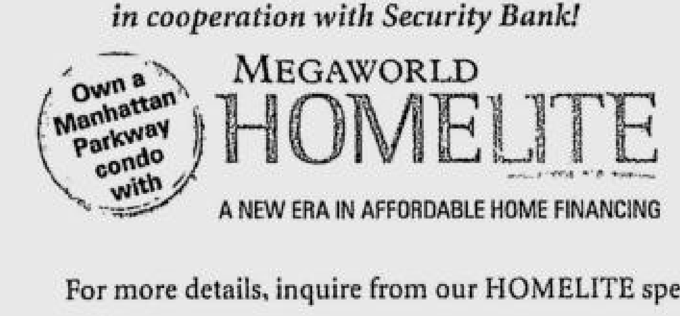

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Staying on top with 'best can be better' belief

CEO of one of country's top hospitals shares success secrets

"NEVER be happy with what we have," says Ledesma.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AN ENTERPRISE HAS a life cycle. It grows, reaches a plateau, and usually it's downhill from there.

Unless the enterprise expands, diversifies or innovates continuously. And the key to this would be decision makers who can continuously propel a company to new heights.

St. Luke's Medical Center is one of the most profitable hospitals in the country today. The most profitable in fact, it's president and CEO claims.

"We are the most financially viable, by a mile," says Jose F. G. Ledesma. "Our cash flow earning is three times that of our nearest competitor."

The hospital is a non-stock and non-profit organization, and Ledesma declines to give the figures for profitability.

But sufficient proof abounds to back his claim. The hospital is set to build a P6-billion facility in Fort Bonifacio, with plans to spend an additional P3 billion for new equipment.

Last year, it launched a full scholarship program, providing totally free medical education for up to 60 students. Cost for each student amounts to P167,000 to P200,000 a year.

The institution was established by the Episcopalian Church in the Philippines in 1903.

Near bancruptcy

Ledesma says St. Luke's finances have been in the black for over two decades now.

But it was not always so.

Back in 1975, St. Luke's was near ing bankruptcy. It was then that the Episcopalian Church decided to spin it off into a non-stock, non-profit charitable corporation and turn it over to a new Board of Trustees headed by William Quasha, the only American lawyer who could practice in the Philippines at that time.

FIRST JOB

Quasha became chair and CEO of the hospital.

The Church also decided it would no longer support the hospital financially. The board, according to the book "The Legacy," embarked on fund raising activities. Ledesma says Quasha used his own personal credit line to provide supplies for the hospital.

St. Luke's then suffered from an image problem—having been run by the Church, it was seen as a charity hospital. (Today, it is seen more as a hospital for the wealthy.)

The dire situation at the hospital was seen as the reason why some doctors left and built a new hospital—the Makati Medical Center, one of St. Luke's major competitors today.

In 1981, Ledesma, then 34, joined St. Luke's.

He says he had just been fired from the Iloilo Mission Hospital for conflict of interest—he had entered into a partnership with one of the hospital's suppliers without telling the board even if their price was the lowest among competitors.

He went to Manila to try his luck and stumbled on a tiny ad looking for a hospital manager.

He was called for an interview and the first question asked of him was why he left Iloilo Mission Hospital. He immediately answered he was fired.

The members of the board did not show any emotion. They continued to ask him questions about what he thought of St. Luke's. Ledesma did not mince words and told them they were doing things wrong. One was that the board was interfering with management and doctors had no business running a hospital.

He recalls he had done research on the hospital before going to the interview.

But after failing to hear from the hospital for weeks, he thought his words may have gotten the better of him.

But a months later, Quasha himself called and hired him.

Ledesma took on the post of hospital manager with a monthly pay of P6,000.

With the support of Quasha and the board members, changes were instituted. Among the necessary acts adopted by the board were the firing of certain people and the hiring of the right ones.

It was tough, and Ledesma admits that then and now he remains unpopular among doctors, saying that in their eyes, he is an "SOB."

But the board of trustees' approved his management moves. Today, the board is headed by Chowking founder Robert Kuan. The board is the decision maker. Its members do not receive any compensation.

THE HOSPITAL is the first in the country and only the second in Asia to be re-accredited by JCI, putting it in the elite group of healthcare providers worldwide.

Innovators and risk takers

Looking back at the steady growth of St. Luke's, Ledesma says this can be attributed to being "innovators and risk takers."

"We invest a lot in people and medical staff expertise and technology, as well as customer service," says Ledesma.

He says the hospital is lucky in that, for the past two decades, it has a "visionary board who is supportive of management."

Up to now, doctors are not allowed to become members of the board to avoid any conflict of interest.

But the hospital provides its doctors with the best equipment and technology. St. Luke's boasts that it is better equipped than 95 percent of hospitals in the United States.

QUASHA

Getting the best

St. Luke's also believes in investing in quality.

To ensure it will get the best doctors, it now picks the top students to be educated in its medical school.

Ledesma says that cum laude graduates of UP, Ateneo and La Salle can qualify for scholarships in their school.

"Our belief is, if you get the best students you will produce great graduates."

And the unique thing about the school is that they are not requiring their scholars to stay and work for the hospital after they have completed their studies. But officers of St. Luke's hope that the scholars would stay on, given the quality of the hospital's facilities and services.

Ledesma was proud when St. Luke's became the first Philippine hospital to be accepted to the Joint Commission International accreditation in the US in 2003.

On Feb. 21, the Joint Commission wrote Ledesma to inform him that St. Luke's has re-accredited the hospital, making it the only Filipino hospital to be accredited twice.

This means that the quality of its doctors and services is at par with US hospitals.

This has created a growing market of Americans who go to St. Luke's for some of their medical needs.

"St. Luke's has better technology for a fraction of the cost," Ledesma points out.

For its nursing staff, St. Luke's has transferred its nursing school to the Trinity College a few years ago.

But Ledesma says they have not been affected by the exodus of Filipino nurses to the US because, as early as three years ago, they hired and trained a huge number of nurses, precisely in anticipation of the flight.

A move undertaken years ago was increasing St. Luke's rates across the board. It then started to veer away from its charity hospital image.

"You price yourself at a level where you can make good margins, and you look at areas where you are inefficient and improve on this," Ledesma says.

St. Luke's was also one of the first hospitals to adopt the practices of the hospitality industry.

"We want to be the cleanest hospital... comparable to five-star hotels. Last year, we launched the customer service program. Our new dream is to be the best in customer service... at par with the best hospitals in the world."

The effort involves all sectors in the hospital. Some 8,000 suggestions on how to delight the patients were collected.

"We did not consider any suggestion crazy and many of the suggestions were implemented," he says. "If the patient is happy, they will refer other patients to us."

Getting doctors back

A little known program of St. Luke's that was started 10 years ago was getting Filipino doctors abroad to come back to the Philippines.

They were told that "whatever toys (equipment) you have abroad, we will bring it to St Luke's."

Ledesma admits not all of the 100 doctors they brought to the country stayed, but they continue to do this.

St. Luke's also sends its doctors for training abroad, from a week to a year. Ledesma says in the 15 years they have been doing this, only one doctor did not come back.

An important component of all the innovations and technology St. Luke's brings into the country is that it advertises these new equipment.

St. Luke's marketing head Chris Liwanag says the hospital was the first to market its equipment and services, and this has greatly helped in creating awareness about their capability.

St. Luke's continues to innovate and work at being ahead of its competitors.

Ledesma still goes to work at 6:30 each morning. He updates himself on new medical studies. He is alert for what can further improve the hospital and its people.

To achieve this, they have adopted the motto "never be happy with what we have."

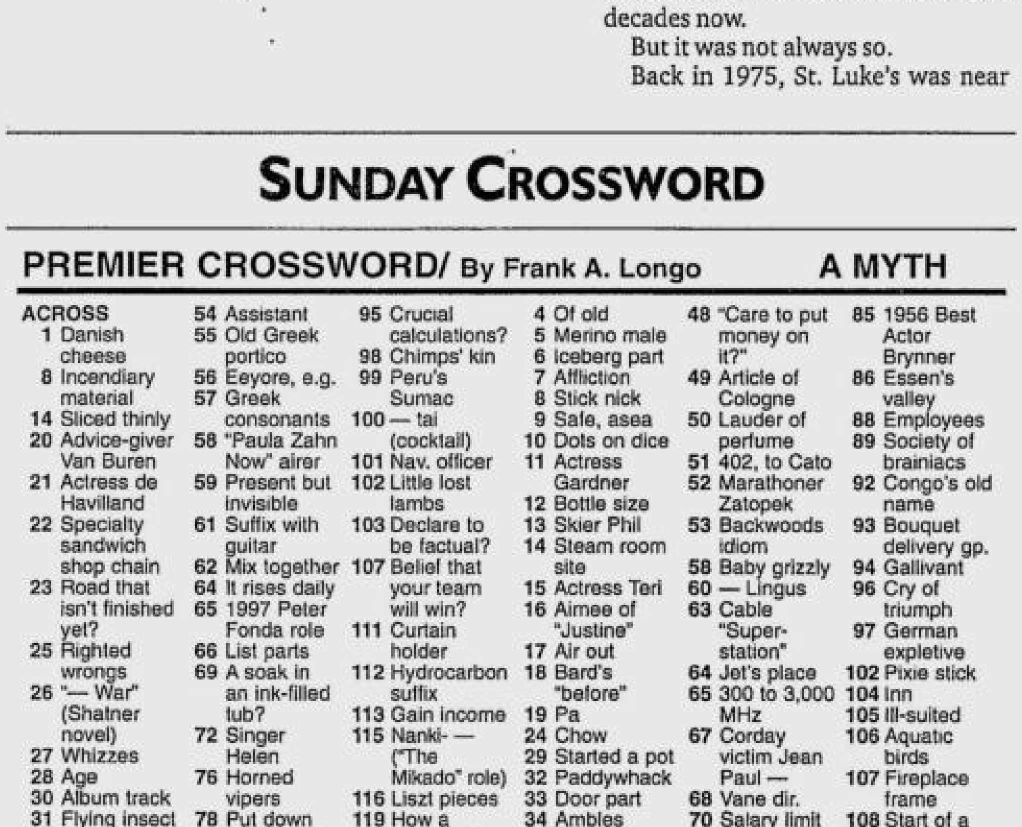
Not bad for a chemical engineering graduate who worked first as a medical reprsentative.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

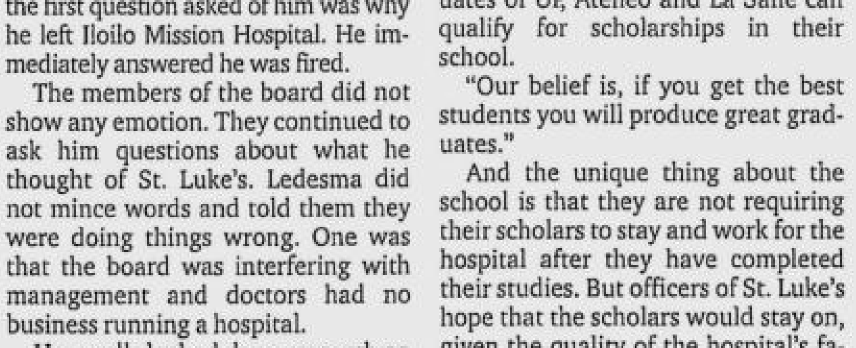
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo **A MYTH**

ACROSS
1 Danish cheese
8 Incendiary material
14 Sliced thinly
20 Advice-giver Van Buren
21 Actress de Havilland
22 Specialty sandwich shop chain
23 Road that isn't finished yet?
25 Righted wrongs
26 "— War" (Shatner novel)
27 Whizzes
28 Age
30 Album track
31 Flying insect from Dublin?
36 Gallic friends and neighbors?
40 Short-lived subatomic particles
41 "Well now!"
43 Foot digit
44 Hilo garland
45 Polish port
47 Very small Christmas hanging?
51 Renovate Western Australia's capital?
54 Assistant
55 Old Greek portico
56 Eeyore, e.g.
57 Greek consonants
58 "Paula Zahn Now" airer
59 Present but invisible
61 Suffix with guitar
62 Mix together
64 It rises daily
65 1997 Peter Fonda role
66 List parts
69 A soak in an ink-filled tub?
72 Singer Helen
76 Horned vipers
78 Put down
79 Enthusiast
81 See 83-Down
82 Filling course
85 Pup squeak
86 Pensioned: Abbr.
87 Eritrea's capital
90 Dunn of "Saturday Night Live"
91 Shih — (toy dogs)
93 Extra inning about to be played?
95 Crucial calculations?
98 Chimps' kin
99 Peru's Sumac
100 — tai (cocktail)
101 Nav. officer
102 Little lost lambs
103 Declare to be factual?
107 Belief that your team will win?
111 Curtain holder
112 Hydrocarbon suffix
113 Gain income
115 Nanki- — ("The Mikado" role)
116 Liszt pieces
119 How a reformed villain has progressed?
125 "Rats!"
126 Accuse formally
127 Plains Indian
128 Geneses
129 Feared fly
130 Visine targets

DOWN
1 Papa Doc ruled it
2 "Li'l" guy
3 Lawrence of "Mama's Family"
4 Of old
5 Merino male
6 Iceberg part
7 Affliction
8 Stick nick
9 Safe, asea
10 Dots on dice
11 Actress Gardner
12 Bottle size
13 Skier Phil
14 Steam room site
15 Actress Teri
16 Aimee of "Justine"
17 Air out
18 Bard's "before"
19 Pa
24 Chow
29 Started a pot
32 Paddywhack
33 Door part
34 Ambles
35 Like a spud-peeling GI
36 Rival
37 "American Idol" judge Simon
38 Rockies range
39 Pair of cymbals in a drum kit
41 Chooses
42 Forced laugh
45 Apparition
46 "Inferno" poet
48 "Care to put money on it?"
49 Article of Cologne
50 Lauder of perfume
51 402, to Cato
52 Marathoner Zatopek
53 Backwoods idiom
58 Baby grizzly
60 — Lingus
63 Cable "Superstation"
64 Jet's place
65 300 to 3,000 MHz
67 Corday victim Jean Paul —
68 Vane dir.
70 Salary limit
71 Ballet wear
73 Sturm und —
74 Pub game
75 Slangy affirmative
77 Tabby
80 Spenser's "The — Queene"
82 Dict. shelfmate
83 With 81-Across, Sally Field title role
84 Initial tests
85 1956 Best Actor Brynner
86 Essen's valley
88 Employees
89 Society of brainiacs
92 Congo's old name
93 Bouquet delivery gp.
94 Gallivant
96 Cry of triumph
97 German expletive
102 Pixie stick
104 Inn
105 Ill-suited
106 Aquatic birds
107 Fireplace frame
108 Start of a supplication
109 — nth degree
110 Hostess snack cakes
113 Give out
114 Tot's recital
116 Old Tokyo
117 Light brown
118 Rte. suggestions
120 Bardic work
121 Surfacing stuff
122 Native metal
123 Dough roll
124 Ajar, to a poet



answer on page B4



A GROUP of car salesmen recently opened the Edsa Auto Exchange—the first used car store that offers warranty and after sales services by technical people trained under Japanese automotive standards.
The group, led by EVP and GM Ferdinand del Rosario, the Pro and Master Technicians from Toyota Otis and Toyota Balintawak (Main and North) conduct 32-point check ups on each car.
Located at 199 Edsa-Ortigas, the Exchange offers special rates for OFWs and one-on-one sessions with customers who want to avail of insurance and financing services.

Loyalty

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

AS SCHOOLCHILDREN, WE learned to pledge our loyalty in solemn ways such as "pinky swears," exchanging friendship bracelets, or even becoming blood brothers.

When making promises, we demonstrated our loyalty with the phrase "I cross my heart and hope to die," or we proved our sincerity by swearing upon our lunchboxes, action figures, or baseball cards that we would honor our word.

Schools and clubs reinforced our understanding of being loyal.

We took the Boy Scout Oath or Girl Scout Promise to confirm our commitment to those organizations.

As leaders, we still find ourselves asking for and pledging our loyalty. If we're successful, we develop a bond of loyalty with the team we lead. We earn their trust, and in return, they reward us with devotion and hard work. Loyalty can be a powerful motivator to unite a team and spur it toward great accomplishments.

Yet, as great as loyalty can be, history's most tragic moments are painted with harrowing pictures of blind loyalty.

Consider these images:

- Fiercely loyal to the Japanese Empire, kamikazes hurtled their planes into boatloads of soldiers.
- In absolute loyalty to the Third Reich and its leader, Adolf Hitler, thousands of Nazi stormtroopers organized and ran concentration camps, committing the ugly atrocities of the Holocaust.
- Out of supposed loyalty to the Christian faith, knights throughout Europe slaughtered innocent victims and plundered their property along their journey to the Holy Lands.

In business as in history, loyalty is generally a blessing but can deviate into blight.

In an excerpt from the Wharton Leadership Digest, John Baldoni looks at three dangerous ways in which leaders can abuse loyalty.

1. Loyalty as a shield

Leaders can be tempted to surround themselves with "yes" men and women who display deep personal loyalty. By stacking their inner circle with comrades, leaders shield themselves from checks and balances on their power. Once a leader's power is free from scrutiny, abuses are soon to follow.

2. Loyalty as a bargaining tool

Leaders who engender loyalty can flirt with the dangerous divide between motivation and manipulation. Knowing the team will do their bidding, the leader may place undue burdens on their people.

Similarly, the leader may become miserly with compensation, incentives, and recognition, instead relying on loyalty to drive their team's behavior.

3. Loyalty as an instrument of personal gain

A leader's loyalty to the organization can result in greater responsibilities and increased freedom as trust is established with shareholders and board members.

Unfortunately, once a leader has earned the trust of major stakeholders, he or she may abuse that trust for selfish gain. What began as a genuine desire for the organization's well-being may be twisted into a hidden agenda of personal profit.

Selfless loyalty

As John Baldoni writes, "For leaders to embody true loyalty, they need to put the needs of their organization ahead of personal gain." Selfless loyalty may translate into a leader's willingness to be the "bad guy" and sacrifice popularity for the good of the organization.

Or, the leader may need to invite accountability so that he or she is less apt to wield power inappropriately. In the end, loyalty for the sake of noble principles and organizational excellence is well worth the cost of developing and safeguarding from abuse.

(For information on John Maxwell, e-mail us at maxwell @inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732 God bless!)

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Homegrown apparel company started with rags

PRINTED T-shirts by the Naduma's workers are left out to dry.

NADUMA artist expose the design for silkscreen printing.

From page B4

shop based in this city. Because when Calalo was transferred to Sagada Weaving's production area, she "found the love for sewing." She was about Grade 6 then.

Her grandmother called her creations "Lisa Bags."

"[Lisa] was very happy when the bags were sold," Calalo's mother, Susan Cabalda, says.

When Calalo and her husband started a family in 1990, she left her job at the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to raise her children.

In 1993, she started Naduma so she could earn while keeping an eye on the kids.

"We started with two manual sewing machines. We made bags out of the scraps of Sagada Weaving. I wanted to do something out of the rags," Calalo says.

She got the rags from Sagada Weaving, now owned by an aunt.

"We got the rags free. [My aunt was] not using it anyway. We tried to integrate it with a non-woven material and make it into handbags," she says.

When the rags became scarce, Calalo came up with a line of baby clothes.

With P100,000 from her savings, she and her husband went to Manila to buy materials. But when they were looking for materials and sewing machines at the Divisoria market, they came upon an opportunity.

"We met a Chinese businessman who was selling high-speed sewing machines and at the same time was into shirt production. He demonstrated how easy it was to make shirts and he was willing to sell us the sewing machines and train our people," Calalo says.

"The offer was too good to pass up, so we said, 'Why not?'" she recalls.

Naduma started with Calalo and a sewer.

They used a bedroom for sewing and the dining room for cutting. They produced 25 shirts daily.

Problems cropped up. Calalo says she used to bring the shirts to a commercial printer but its clients copied their designs.

"That was when we decided to come up with our own printing section. Aside from producing the shirts, we eventually printed it ourselves," she says.

Their first customers were schools, government offices and souvenir shops. The city's souvenir shops bought shirts that were a hit among tourists.

She says 60 percent of their production used to go to schools and government offices and the remaining 40 percent to souvenir shops.

"We cater to the ABCD market—the whole range," she adds.

Despite serving a wide range of customers, things did not go smoothly for Naduma.

"We incurred a considerable loss in our first year of operation because we only had few customers then," Calalo says.

"We were forced to extend credit to attract customers. But many failed to pay us," Calalo adds.

She says their capital was too small to buy enough materials for stock.

"Our biggest problem was how to raise our capitalization. Slowly we were able to establish relationships with our suppliers until such time that they were able to give us terms [of payment]," she says.

In 1994, Calalo became a member of the Baguio-Benguet Community Credit Cooperative (BBCCC), "a big boost" to her business.

In 2000, they were able to put up a three-story building beside their house in Barangay Loakan for Naduma's factory.

In 2004, Naduma displayed their products at SM City Baguio.

"We were very hesitant to rent a space at SM because the rental was expensive. So, my cousins and I formed another company and combined our money and resources to rent a space in SM," Calalo says.

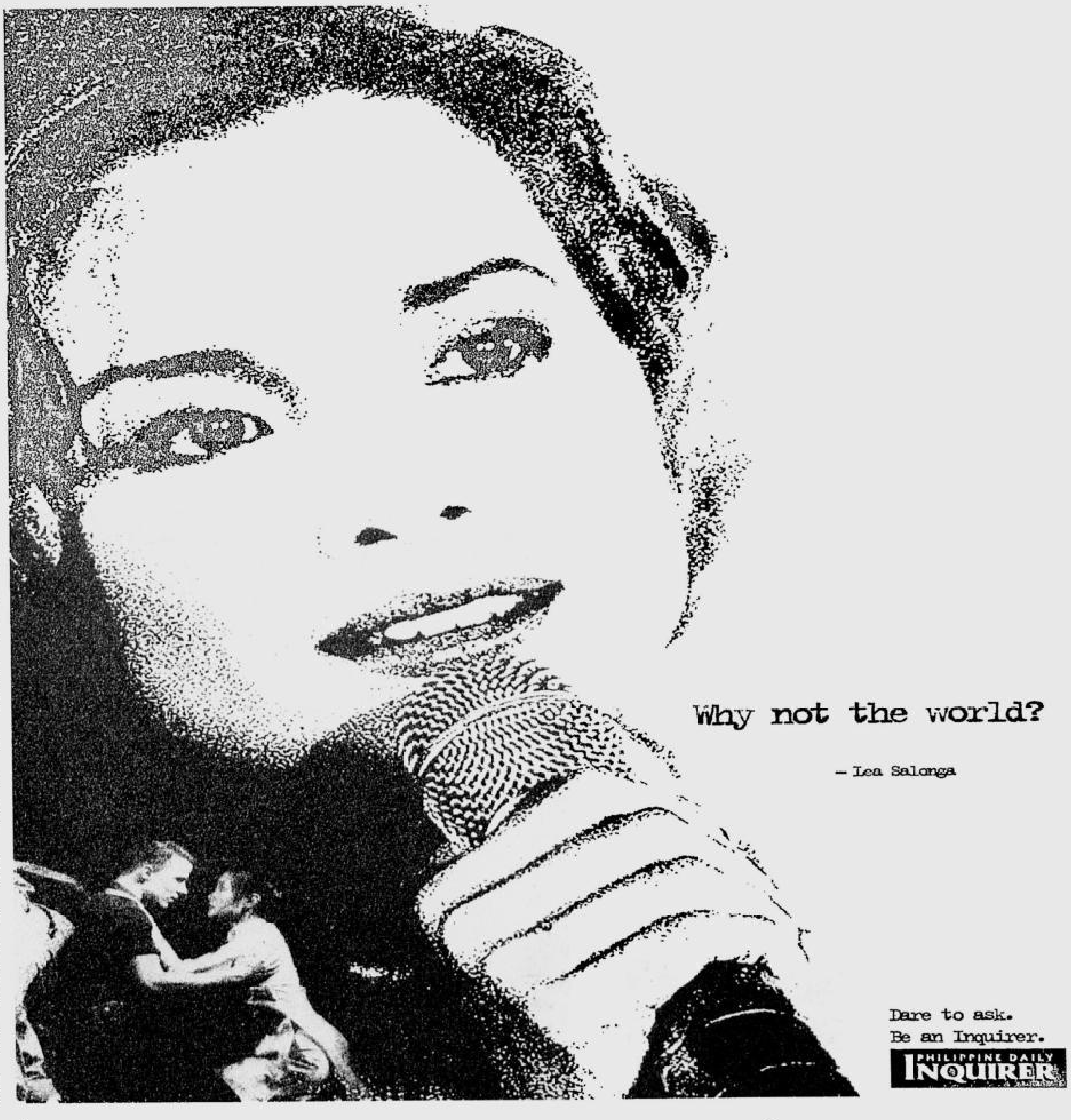
Demand was overwhelming.

"Our market for souvenir shirts really went up. Now it consists of 75 percent of our production. We cannot even meet SM's need, especially during the peak tourist season," she says.

"Now we have to increase [our production] to 500 shirts daily to be able to catch up with the demand."

She says the company has to expand and explore the export market.

" If we want to survive, we have to expand. Otherwise, *kakainin kami* (the competition will kill us)," she says.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FITTING the silkscreen in the garments for printing PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

SHOWING the logo of Naduma on frame silkscreen by the printer worker

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Homegrown apparel company started with rags

By Elmer Kristian Dauigoy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—AS A CHILD, LISA CALALO spent summers making handbags from scraps of cloth in her grandmother's weaving shop in Sagada, Mt. Province.

Today, at 43, Calalo heads a homegrown apparel company that is Naduma.

"I used to be assigned to the front desk [of Sagada Weaving] but I was asked to work at the back of the shop because I was rude to the customers," she says.

That day might well have been the start of Naduma, a shirt production and printing

HOMEGROWN/ B3

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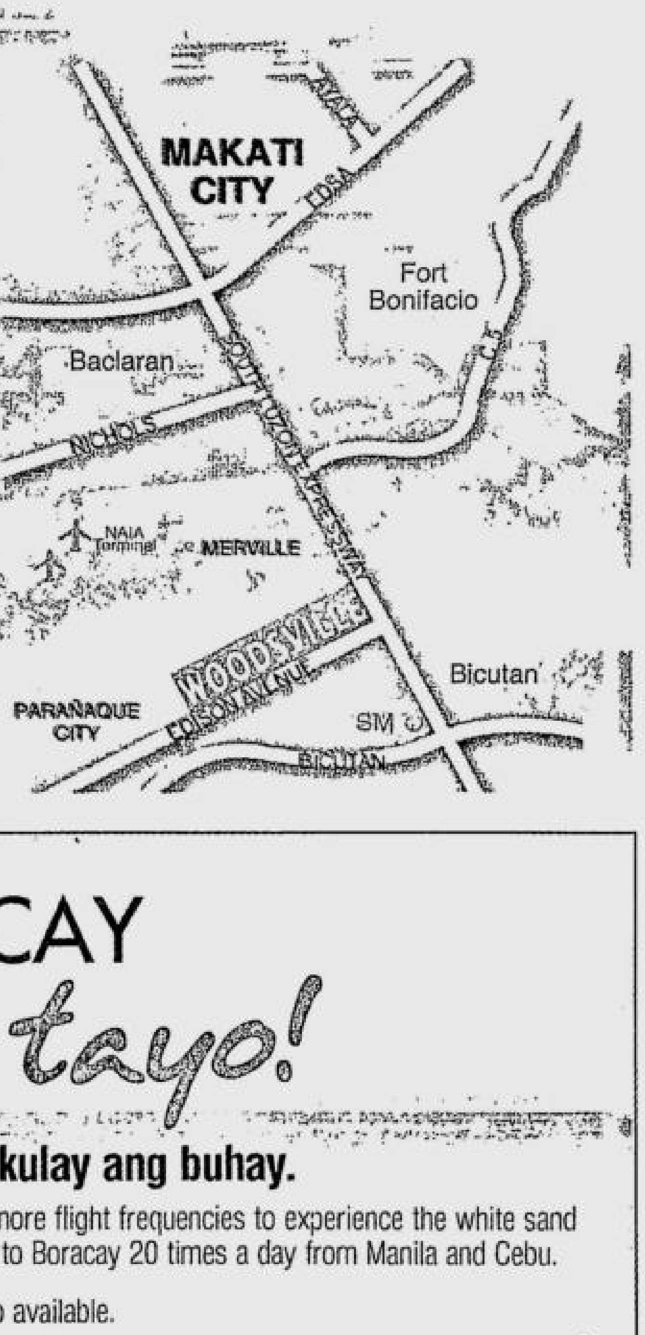
Actual Picture of Model Unit



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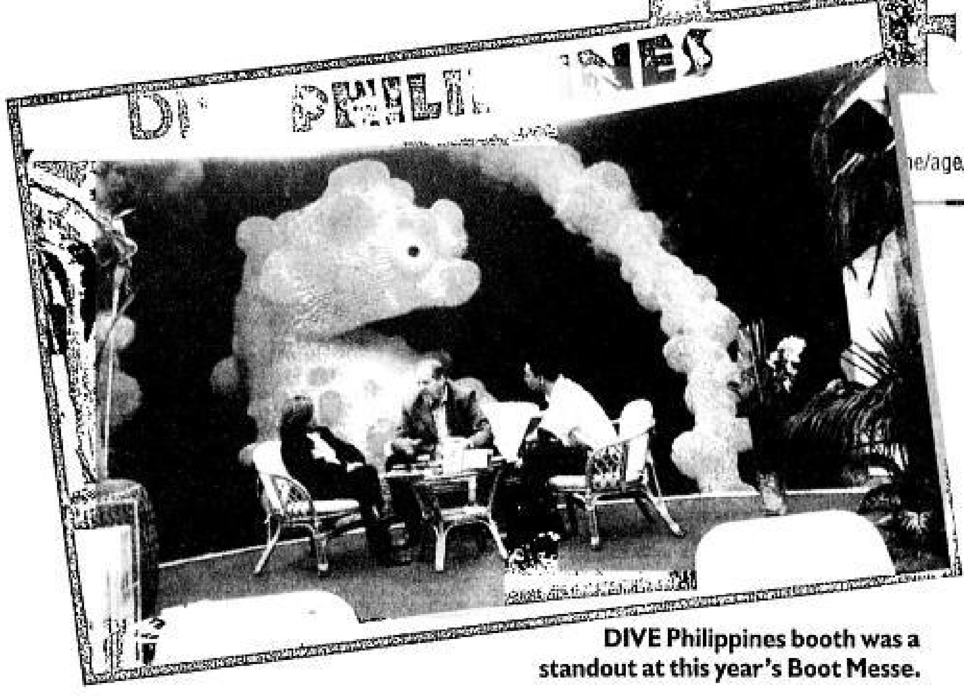
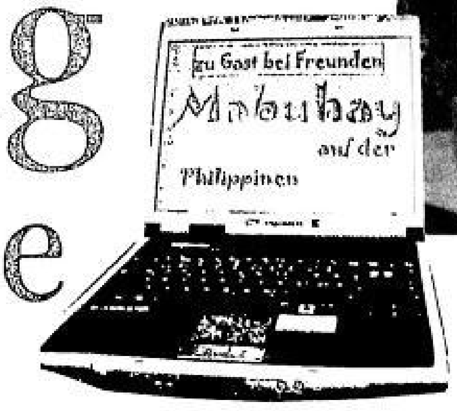


DIVE Philippines booth was a standout at this year's Boot Messe.

Diving into paradise



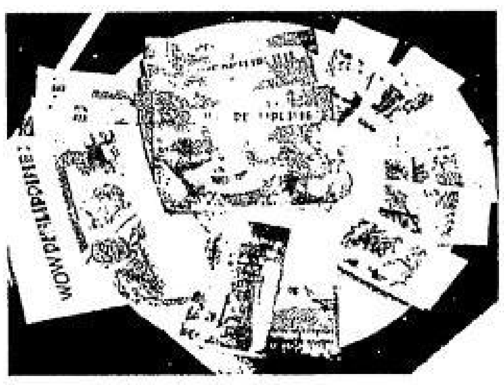
DIVE PHILIPPINES

GUESTS receive a warm welcome—and in different languages, too. Above, many seats were provided for divers and tourists interested in the Philippines.

The Department of Tourism is working hard to convince tourists from Europe to take the plunge in our country—literally

By Pam Pastor

DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY—Sascha Vloop, a 24-year-old diving enthusiast from Heinsberg, Germany, has been enjoying underwater adventures for nine years now. He has some time off in March and is thinking of going on his first diving trip outside his country. He is eyeing the Bahamas, but hasn't decided yet. When asked if he'd be interested in going to the Philippines, he said: "Why not?"



BROCHURES about the Philippines and the different dive destinations were available in English and German.

Silke and Stefan, a couple from Germany, have been diving for 10 years. Together, they have explored Thailand, Fuji, Brazil, Egypt, the Caribbean and the Philippines. They've been to Mindoro 30 times and are thinking of visiting Palawan in July.

Trend sport

Sascha, Silke and Stefan are just three of the countless divers in Germany. In Germany, diving is considered a trend sport and many children from the age of 12 start scuba diving. According to research by Allenbacher Marketing & Advertising, there are 3.6 million Germans who are occasional divers and there are 300,000-600,000 active ones. These big numbers represent a market that the Department of Tourism wants to continue tapping.

Thanks to their long, uninterrupted holidays, their income, the strength of their currency and many other factors, Germans go on 79.8 million holiday trips a year, 2.1 million of which are to the Asia Pacific. In 2006, the Philippines had 40,921 tourist arrivals from Germany. The numbers are expected to grow 5-8 percent this year. The DOT believes it can give these statistics a push by letting more people know about the Philippines' potential as a diving destination.

And there is no better place to spread the word than at Boot Messe 2007, the 38th International Boat Show held at the Düsseldorf Exhibition Center Jan. 20-28. Boot Messe is the

DIVING/ C2

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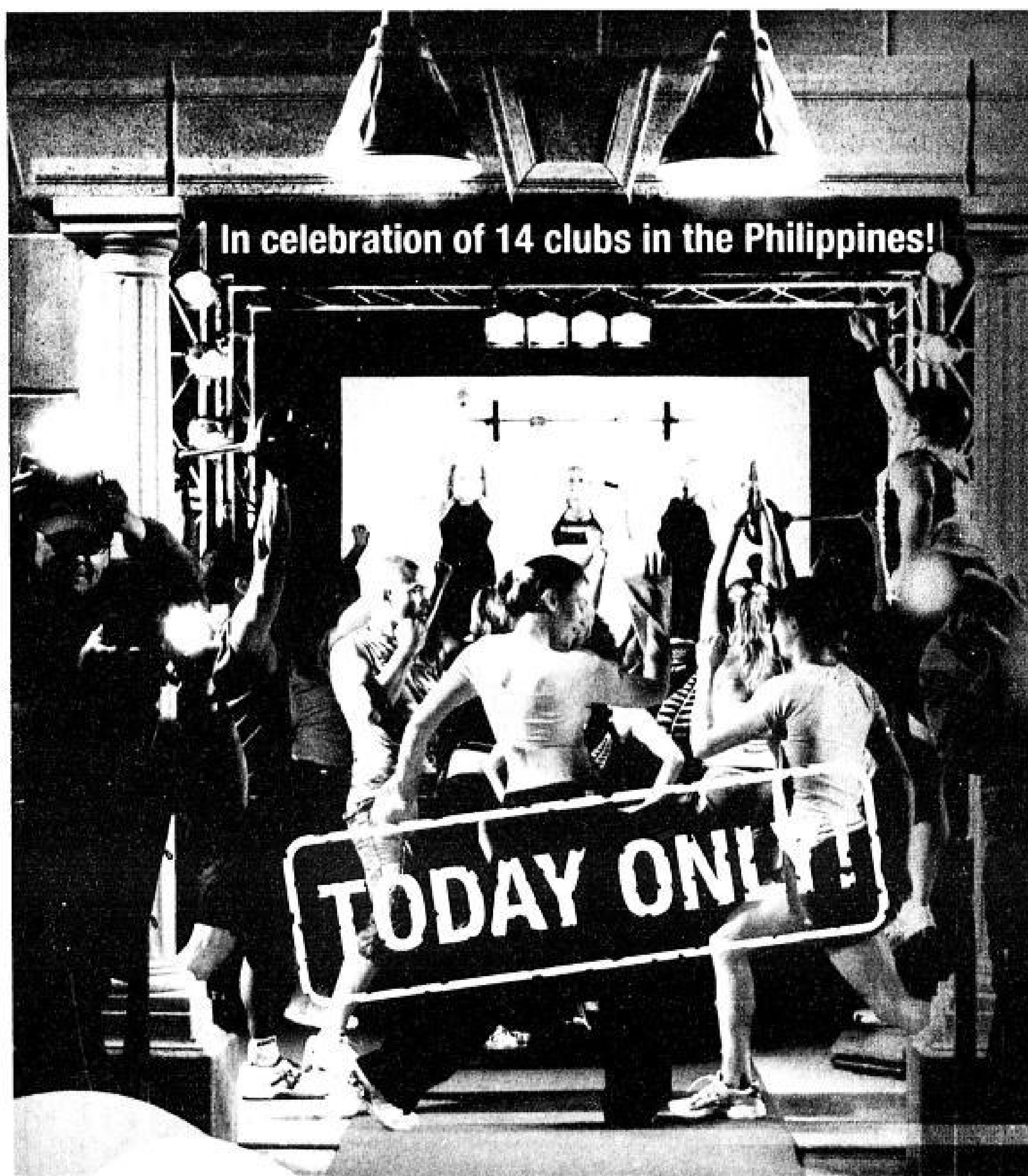
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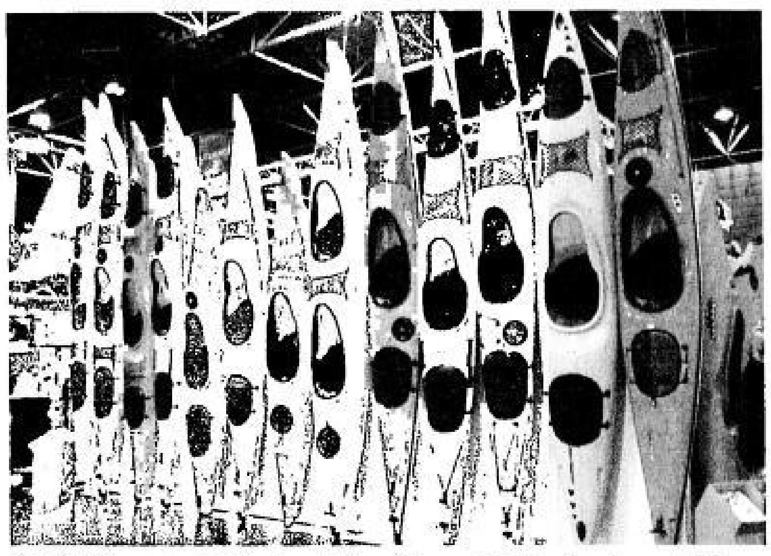
DOT Team Europe head Verna Buensuceso, Ambassador Delia Albert, Asec. Cynthia Carrion, winner Andre Schnabel, Qatar Airways' Oya Dayioglu and Venus Tan


BOOT Messe had halls devoted to different kinds of water activities.

DOT Team Frankfurt, the tour operators and delegates from Manila at the Dive Philippines booth

Diving into paradise

From page C1

biggest boat and watersports show in Europe. Around 1,650 exhibitors from 55 countries fill 17 halls, with each hall dedicated to different categories like fishing, surfing, motor boats, yachts and more.

Hall 3, where the Dive Show was held, housed 300 exhibitors falling under several categories—manufacturers, dive associations, diving tourism and dive travel retail.

Strong presence

The Philippines had a strong presence in the hall, thanks to the hard work of the DOT-Frankfurt office, which takes care of DOT's efforts in Western and Eastern Europe, and the support of the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD).

The Dive Philippines booth was a standout—not just in size but in design and service. The DOT Frankfurt team brought together 11 tour operators and Qatar Airways under two booths that were made to appear as one big showcase. There were huge images of the Philippines' underwater wonders, trees that gave the booth a tropical feel, comfortable seats, and even a bar that served drinks and snacks to people who stopped by the booth to explore the possibilities of going to the Philippines to dive.

All day long people stopped by to ask questions about the Philippines, pick up brochures and make bookings.

The Dive Philippines booth wasn't just a place where you could get information—although there was a lot of that, what with the countless brochures, guides and other materials it had in German. It was also a venue to get a taste of the Filipino hospitality that the country is so proud of.

Waiting for assistance

"In 2000, I visited the fair and I found out there were a lot of Philippine dive tours renting stands individually. Some of them had been doing it for 10 years. I spoke to them and they said they had been waiting for assistance from the DOT for a long time," said Marie Venus Q. Tan, DOT's director for Central and Eastern Europe and head of the Frankfurt office.

She then had the idea of bringing together different tour operators under one booth that would be organized by the DOT.

Tan feels very strongly about promoting the Philippines as a dive destination. "We only began the aggressive promotion of Philippines as diving destination two years ago. There is such a big potential for us here. It is our strongest niche. With 7,107 islands, you can't go wrong. We have bio-diversity. This is our strength that nobody can contest so why not push it?"

In 2006, the idea finally turned into reality. "We had four tour operators with us then. A lot of them were hesitant and apprehensive to join us. They had been promoting the Philippines without the DOT and I wanted to change that perception."

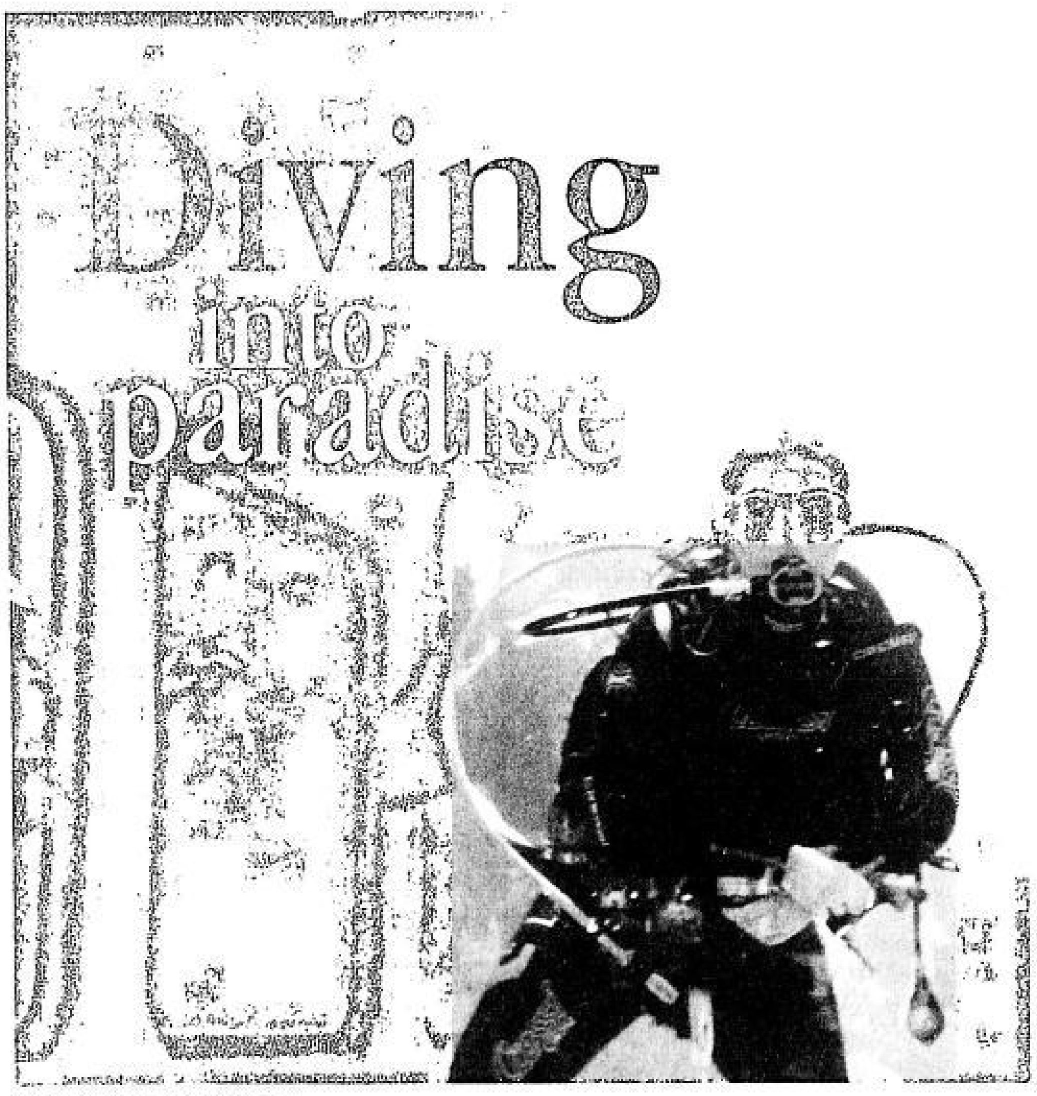
One of the skeptics was Rene Buob, CEO of Calypso and Pinjalo Dive Resort in Boracay, who had been joining the fair on his own for 12 years. "Last year, I didn't believe in it. I had written letters before and... nothing."

But DOT's efforts last year made a believer out of him. "I saw the booth last year and I was impressed."

This year, he, along with 10 other tour operators, joined the Boot Messe with DOT. "This year was even better than last year. I am absolutely and highly impressed. I just have good words for the DOT. They have good materials, the brochures are in German. I will join DOT all the time."

Good job

He isn't the only one expressing appreciation for DOT's efforts at the fair this year. Dirk Fahrenbach, president of Dugong Dive Center and Club Paradise, and who has been a diving enthusiast for 25 years, said, "Just on the first weekend, we got more bookings than we did during the entire show last year. DOT is doing a really good job. It's good that the government is supporting the private sector."


DIVING fun at Boot Messe

DIVERS rule at Boot Messe's Hall 3.

The Caribbean, the Red Sea, Australia, Palau, Micronesia and the Maldives are currently among the favorite diving spots of people around the world. But the DOT has strong belief that the Philippines belongs in this list as well.

Tan said, "We came out with the campaign "xxs bis xxl" which means that in the Philippines, you can see the micro and the macro. But it's not just diving. Our campaign is that you can dive plus. It's a choice destination. You have the product right here—all you have to do is market it."

When asked what they think is the selling point of the Philippines, the tour operators gave many different answers. Fahrenbach said, "The hospitality of the Philippines, the Philippine smile, the music in their blood, and, of course, 7,107 islands. Thousands of possibilities. It's a diver's paradise."

Michael Deckert, managing director of Explorer Fleet/Scuba World, said, "It's the diversity. And the people of the Philippines. You don't have your head underwater 24 hours. There's life after dive. I believe in that. And you get in contact with Filipinos. You have to see the real Philippines. Germans are interested in the cultural and the background and not just corals."

"The Philippines has everything from XXS to XXL. It's true. From whale sharks in Donsol to the big shipwrecks in Coron," added Thomas Windemuth, managing director of Coco Beach/Coco Divers.

You'd think these tour operators would be competing, but not in this case. As Windemuth said, "The main reason for us to be together is to work and get more people to come. That's a benefit for everyone—also the Philippines."

Very satisfied

For the tour operators, the fair wasn't only a chance to book new visitors, it was also a way to connect them with business contacts and give them the chance to catch up with visitors from the past.

Cynthia Carrion, DOT's assistant secretary for Sports and Wellness Tourism who is also in charge of PCSSD, is another staunch promoter of the Philippines as a diving spot. In 2005, she took over the PCSSD, a commission that was created by former president Marcos to conserve, regulate and promote scuba diving in the Philippines.

"We are working on conserving out water, regulating our resort operators and promoting the Philippines. We have to show them that our country is safe, alive, kicking and a part of the world. We are the Africa of Asia. When you go underwater, you never know what you're going to see. Expect the unexpected. All the work will come back for us. The return of investment for the country is a hundredfold," she added.

The Philippines' presence at the fair extended beyond the Dive Philippines booth. So many other tour operators and travel agents in other booths were promoting diving in the country as well.

Another booth participant was Qatar Airways. Verna Buensuceso, head of DOT's Team Europe, said, "We're always looking at possible airline partners to help us. Qatar Airways is raffling off tickets today with dive packages. They also give good rates. We're working with Qatar Airways for Spain, too."

Lucky winner

The lucky winner was Andre Schnabel, who managed to get scuba gear ready in just two minutes—faster than two other contestants. He won round-trip tickets and dive packages.

Although the tour operators and the DOT will have to wait weeks or even months to see the results, when the divers finally start coming in, many of them already view the participation of the Dive Philippines booth as a success.

Nina Ruether of Whispering Palms Island Resort in Sipaway Island, San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, said, "Business is good. The interest in the Philippines is great. And even last year's visitors are coming by the booth to say hi."

RENE Buob, CEO of Calypso and Pinjalo Dive Resort in Boracay

MICHAEL Deckert, managing director of Explorer Fleet/Scuba World

Dive Center
Paradise
DIRK Fahrenbach, president of Dugong Dive Center and Club Paradise

ARNOLD Gonzales, Tan and Daks Fernandez Gonzales from DOT's office in Frankfurt

COCKTAIL party at Dive Philippines was packed with people enjoying Asian food and drinks with names like Mabuhay Twist and Boracay White Beach.

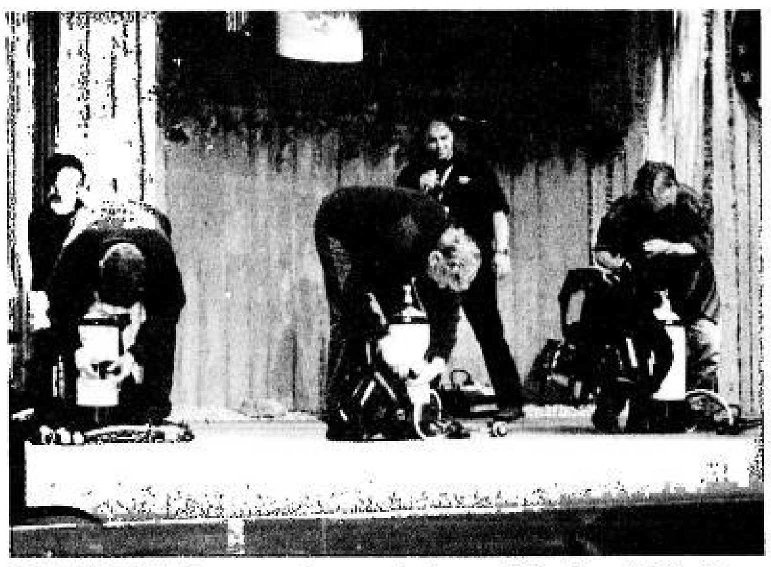
CELEBRATING underwater adventurers

Participating in fairs isn't the only thing that the DOT is doing for the dive campaign. In Germany and other parts of Europe and the world, it holds promotions, works on joint advertising and hosts invitationals so the foreign press can tell their country about diving adventures in the Philippines.

But Deckert is quick to stress that the best way to convince divers to visit the country is by taking care of the environment. "Prove that you are serious about protecting the reefs. That's what divers care about. Ten bombs in General Santos cannot cause as much damage as one dynamite in Tubbataha when it comes to scaring away divers."

Next year's Boot Messe will once again feel the presence of the Philippines. There are currently 18 tour operators that have signed up for DOT's Dive Philippines booth next year. "Next year will be even bigger and better," Carrion said.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph


CONTESTANTS prepare dive gear in hopes of winning a trip to the Philippines.

Fitness First expands to SM Pampanga

Fitness First, the world's number one club in the world, opened its 15th branch on the ground floor of SM City Pampanga, the buzzing leisure and retail center in the City of San Fernando. It is the second Fitness First club outside of Metro Manila.

With top-of-the-line facilities and innovative fitness programs, Fitness First offers the residents of Pampanga and nearby provinces a chance to include fitness in their mall-going agenda at a very affordable price.

Among the amenities and programs available at the Fitness First SM Pampanga branch are the Technogym cardio equipment, luxurious Body Care treatment rooms, and a spacious Cycling Studio.

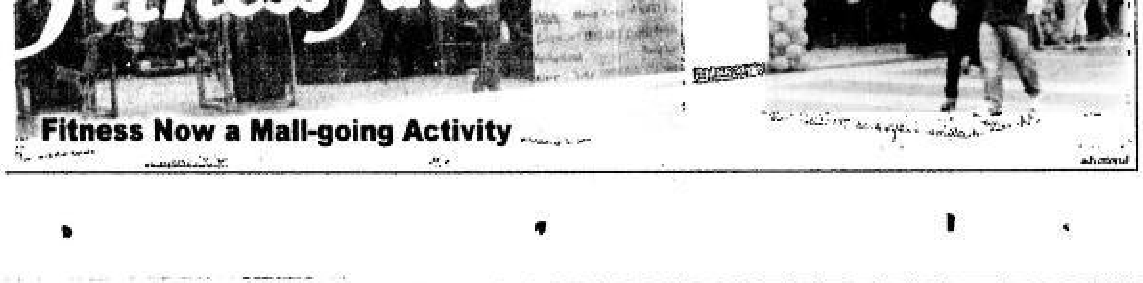
It also offers affordable Personal Training, where professional and qualified Personal Trainers work one-on-one with club members to achieve the fitness results they desire – from losing weight, to increasing stamina, to getting toned to fitting into a wedding dress! A program will be designed and customized to individual to ensure the club member stays motivated, has fun and at the same time get results!

The Cardio Theater gives club members a choice of cable channels to keep them entertained while they exercise. Whether the member enjoys watching music videos, news or the latest sporting event, Cardio Theatre cuts the boredom out of exercising. Members are also given their own headphones.

And if it's pampering a member seeks, Fitness First boasts of its Body Care Spas (not available in some clubs), which offer the latest in relaxation facilities, from massages and saunas to aromatherapy and beauty therapy. In addition to the international training and work experience abroad by Fitness First's Body Care therapists, Fitness First Philippines was also the operator of the multi-awarded Oriental Spa at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. In fact, it was during their stewardship that the Oriental Spa received the "Best Spa Award" from Philippine Tatler Magazine for three consecutive years. The honor is testimony to the very high standards Fitness First maintains when it comes to operating their facilities. There are currently twelve Body Care Spas in the Philippines, with more on the way before year 2007 closes.

Fitness First has over 500 clubs and more than1 million members spread across Asia, Australia, Continental Europe and the U.K. Originally founded in the UK in 1993, it has now grown to 17 countries worldwide, with rapid expansion plans for Asia in the coming years.

Here in the Philippines, Fitness First clubs are located in Alabang, Greenhills, ABS-CBN, Fairview, SM Southmall, SM North Edsa (The Block), Fort Bonifacio, RSC-Makati, Eastwood City, Robinson's Metro East, Ayala Center Cebu, Ortigas, Manila and Fitness First Plus at RCBC Plaza. You can also check out their website at www.fitnessfirst.com.ph for more information on its clubs and facilities.



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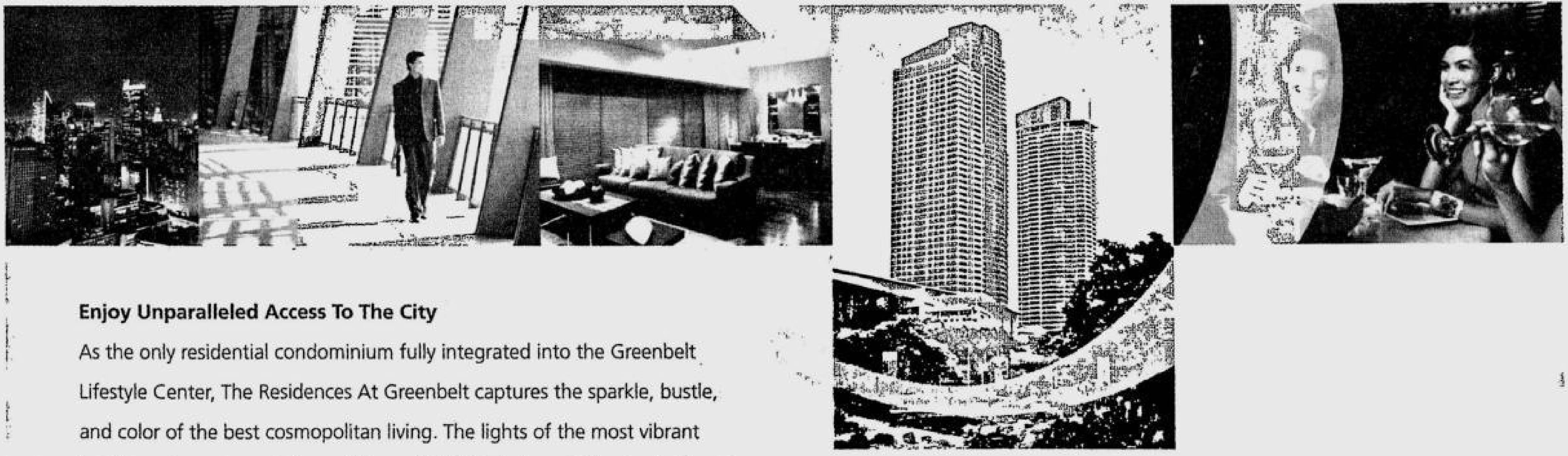

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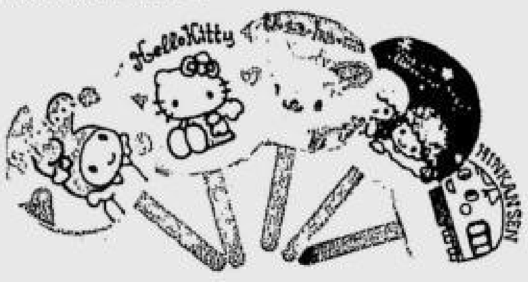

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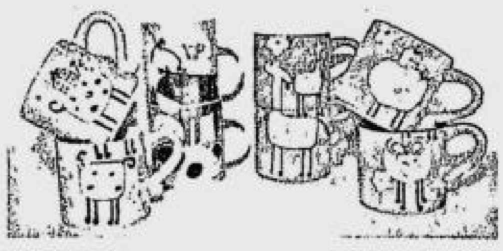

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TRAVEL BRIEFS

Macau trip to be raffled off

Shop at The Podium for a chance to win two tickets to Macau. Between Feb. 28 and March 31, any purchase worth P1,000 or more earns the customer a raffle ticket. Draw will be on April 14. The winner gets two round-trip tickets to Macau, including three-nights accommodation, daily breakfast, round-trip transfers and a half-day sightseeing tour. To launch the promo, the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines (MGTO Philippines) will exhibit March 9-11 photos of the city's newest attractions and historic sights accompanied by music, arts and crafts demonstrations, and offer value-for-money tour packages. MGTO-Phils. is at Suite 11-D Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Call 8122595 and 8130947.

New Bohol resort

Amorita, a world-class resort, will open in April on Alona Beach, Panglao Island, Bohol. Guests of the new resort can stay in villas with balconies and outdoor pool/jacuzzi. They can enjoy al fresco meals by the infinity pool. Bohol is only an hour by plane from Manila or one hour by ferry from Cebu. Alona is a kilometer-and-a-half beach on Panglao Island, which is a 30-minute drive from the Tagbilaran airport. With Amorita as base, visitors can explore other Bohol attractions like the Loboc river, tarsier sanctuary, Chocolate Hills.

Vacation home in Bora

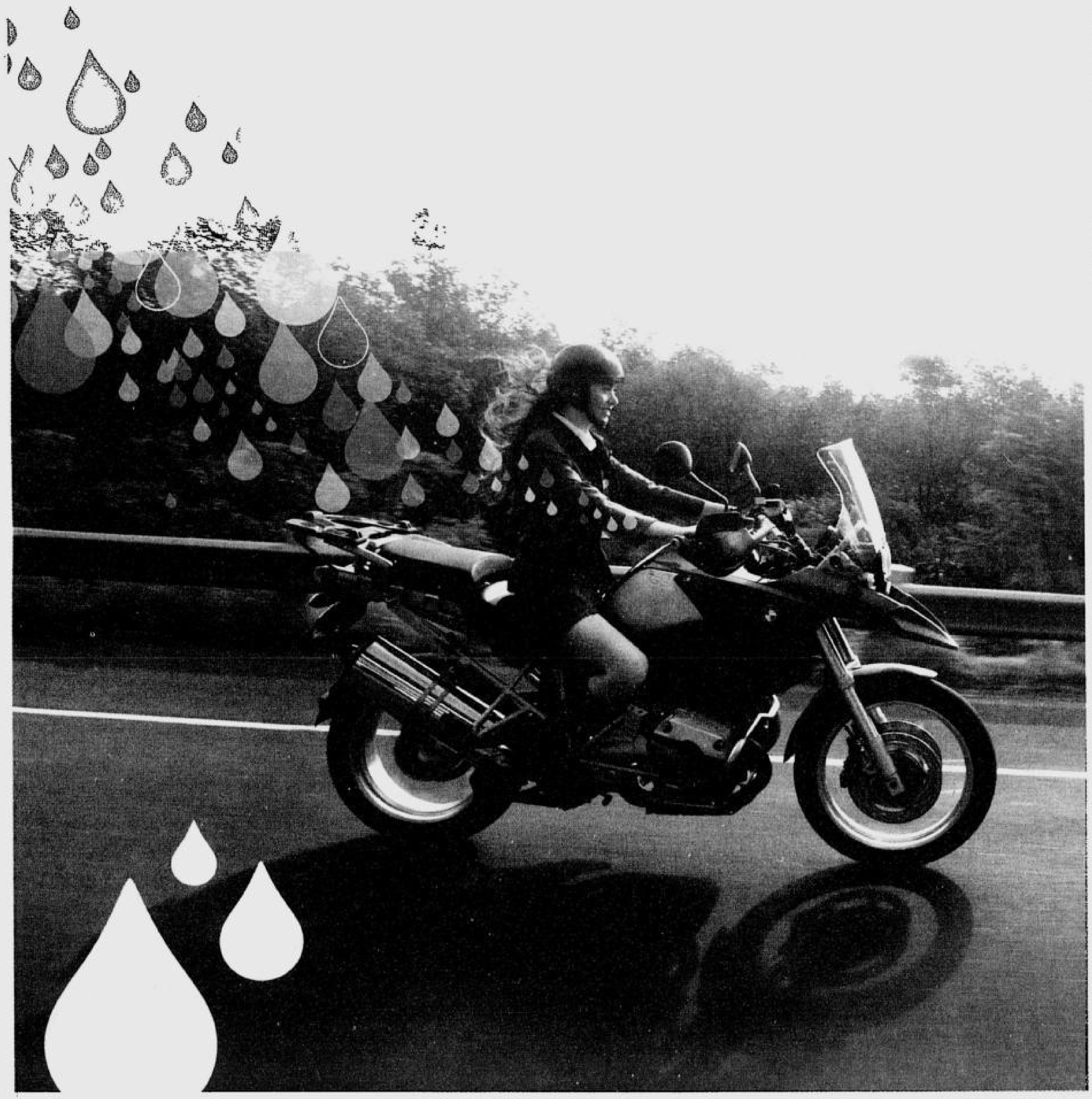
Enjoy the comfort of a house by the beach in Boracay at Chalet Y. It is ideal for large *barkadas*, big families and anyone who wants the peace and quiet afforded by a residence by the beach all to themselves. Chalet Y features indigenous Filipino furniture and fabrics. Located at Station 1, the serviced beachfront home has three bedrooms—a suite on the ground floor and two deluxe rooms on the second floor. Each room has two double beds. Call 8073187, 8078019, 6336-288508, 0920-9708855 or 0917-5388855; fax 6336-2885883; e-mail y_smael@yahoo.com; or visit www.chalety.com.

Parade ushers in new year

The 2007 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Night Parade ushered in the Year of the Pig in Hong Kong. Held at the Hong Kong Cultural Center Piazza and the streets of Tsim Sha Tsui, the event was organized by the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB), with Cathay Pacific as title sponsor. This year's parade featured 13 floats, 15 overseas and 14 local performing groups. Officiating at the opening ceremony was Henry Tang, GBS, JP, financial secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He was joined by HKTB chair Selina Chow, GBS, OBE, JP; Philip Chen, SBS, JP, Cathay Pacific's chief executive; Tourism Commissioner Au King Chi, JP; and HKTB executive director Clara Chong.

STB sets 2007 targets

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) aims to generate S$13.6 billion in tourism receipts and attract 10.2 million visitors in 2007. The targets were announced by Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang during the recent STB Tourism Industry Night at the newly revamped National Museum of Singapore. The 2007 targets reflect an increase of about 10 percent and five percent over the S$12.4 billion TR and 9.7 million in 2006, respectively. Last year's total revenues represented a record-setting double-digit growth (14.5 percent) over the previous year's. The 9.7 million arrivals last year was nine percent higher than in 2005. Total visitor days grew by nine percent to 32.9 million days in 2006. Visit www.stb.com.sg.



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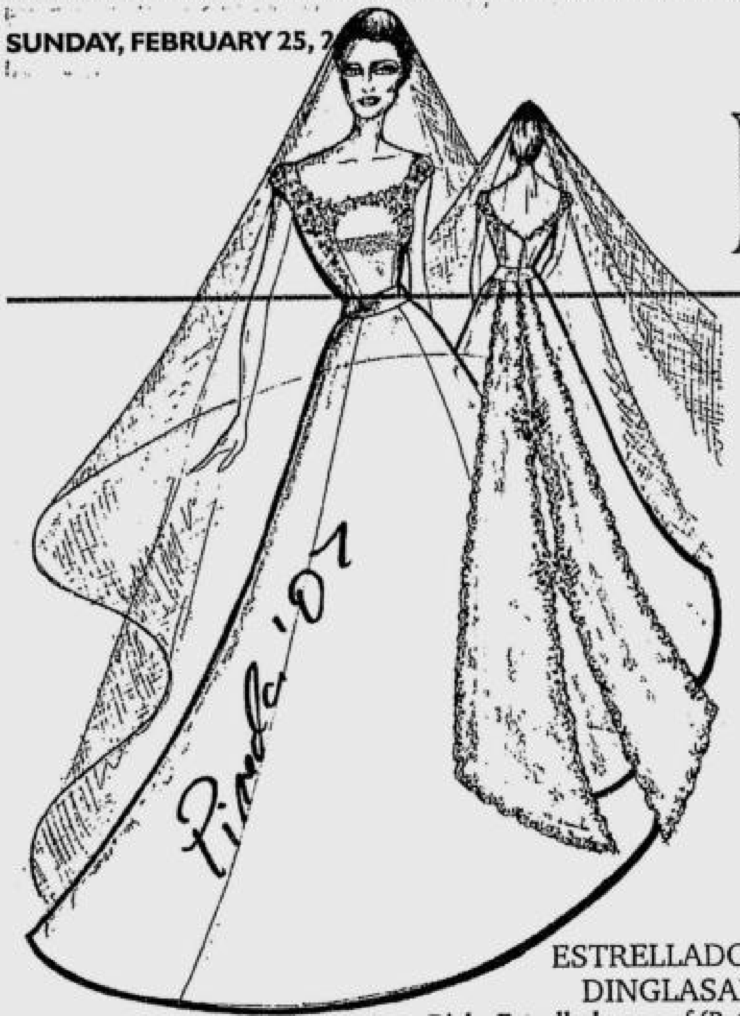
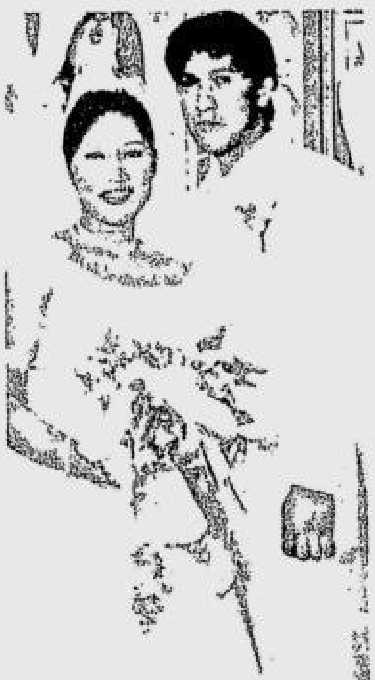
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER*, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*





ESTRELLADO-DINGLASAN

Ricky Estrellado, son of (Ret.) Maj. Gen. **Rodolfo** and **Erlinda Estrellado,** will wed **Pam Dinglasan,** daughter of **Jaime** and **Yolanda Dinglasan,** on March 3, at St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang. **Eric Pineda** designed the bridal gown using ecru silk duchess satin and Chantilly lace. It has a detachable twin-panel train in honeycombed organza embellished with handmade pleated petals and caviar beads, held by a ruched-in champagne-gold brocade sash. It has a 10-meter veil of double illusion tulle fastened by floral Swarovski crystal pins. Reception will follow at the Ballroom of Ayala Alabang Country Club.

VIÑAS-ABAYA

Roldan Viñas, son of **Rogelio** and **Herminia Salac Viñas**, recently tied the knot with **Ann Abaya,** daughter of **Narcisa Abaya,** in Pulilan, Bulacan. Photography by Printshoppe Digital Studio of San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

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Come and join the fun at the Superbods Beach Fest and grand finals in Boracay and get up to 20% discount from SEAIR. Just present 20 Century Tuna labels at any SEAIR ticketing office when you reserve a flight to Boracay for April 23 to April 30, 2007.

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Grand wedding in Maranao tradition

By Ayo Grande Gunting

ON THE FLOOR IN FRONT of the couple lay the ritual symbols of a Maranao Moslem wedding—a Koran on gold brocade, a golden mirror to symbolize brightness and joy, bowls fashioned out of crystal candy to symbolize the sweetness of marriage.

But the most significant of the objects before the 26-year-old Sadat Undae Adap Grande of Macadar, Lumbatan and his bride, Norbaifa Grande, 26, was the Symbol of Unity of the Grande family.

Bride and groom are first cousins. Their fathers are brothers. And both of them are my first cousins, too.

I flew to Mindanao State University (MSU) Marawi for the wedding.

It is rare among Maranaos for first cousins to marry. But Sadat was head over heels in love with Haifa. "We were not close. I (only) met her (in) college (but) love conquers all," Sadat explained.

When they met, Sadat had a girlfriend. But after meeting Haifa, he dropped his girlfriend like a hot potato.

Both bride and groom are MSU graduates. Sadat is the third son of Sultan Superintendent Mamangcao Grande while Haifa is the second to the youngest daughter of Radjamoda and Hadja Amerah Grande.

After meeting his future bride, Sadat dropped his girlfriend like a hot potato

The wedding was a family production. The reception was held at the Marawi Resort Hotel with Maranao decorations done by the bride's family.

The Grandes come from a blue-blooded family in Lanao.

Prominent personalities who attended the wedding were Hadja Sittie Hidjara Grande Cairan, Hadji Abdulrahman Cairan, Lumbatan Mayor Mamintal Grande Rasuman, Superintendent Zeuaida C. Ali, Land Bank manager engineer Achmad Grande Maiuacotao, Hadja Jamela Indol Sam, Dr. Cosain Derico, Dr. Gamal G. Mamacotao, Princess Xaviere Mi, Princess Ayesha Mi-Dipatuan, Mayor Azis Guro, Hadja Loreva Leilani Lao Ramos, Dr. Nariman Lao Taha, Hadja Faisah Pagudaugan M. Derico, Hadja Lilang Lao Tampi, Eddennairah Lao Bato, Somairah Aleeyah Lao Benito, Hadja Sohayla Grande and Jalil Kurangking and the entire Grande family.

WEDDING of Sadat Undae Adap Grande and Norbaifa Grande, which served as a family reunion, was also a family production. The bride's family did the Maranao decorations for the reception held at Marawi Resort Hotel.

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Filipiniana evening for La Chaine

THE CEBU CHAPTER OF LA CHAINE DES Rotisseurs held its 13th anniversary dinner at the ballroom of the Shangri-La in Mactan. The theme was Filipiniana, and the best exponents were Michel and Amparito Lhuillier.

MARITER Klepp, Cebu City Vice Mayor Mike Rama and Marissa Fernan

TONY Lozada, Vivina Yrastorza and Urs Paul Gressly

NESTOR Alonso and Teresin Mendezona

JOEL and Carla del Prado

MESTIZAS in Filipiniana: Amparito Llamas Lhuillier, Edna Diago Lhuillier, Cecilia Rodriguez Villarroya

She wore a figure-hugging sheath of embroidered *piña*. The delicate green ribbon on her left indicated her being head of La Chaine here. Michel's silk moire collar with the corresponding medallion signified he presided over La Chaine in the entire Philippines.

Here for the occasion were Edna and Philippe Lhuillier, the Philippines' ambassador to Rome. They came with daughter Angie and her husband, Martin Miranda.

Gorgeous ternos

A most attractive couple was Joel and Carla del Prado. She wore an outstanding creation by Ben Farrales. Ladies in gorgeous ternos included Norma Gullas, Vivina Yrastorza, Lydia Alfonso, Annabelle Lu Ym, and Bo Hauri, wife of the Marco Polo Hotel's GM Hans Hauri.

The Shangri-La Mactan's GM, Tim Wright, and his wife Mona were praised as the celebration started. The décor of star lanterns, and children singing Visayan ditties put everyone in a festive mood.

The excellent menu showcased the produce of Cebu and neighboring areas. Ingredients for the seafood salad came from the Visayas sea, and the soup was cream of young coconut. Lobster tails and sea bass, duly seasoned, were followed by a *guyabano* sherbet.

Main course was a medallion of tenderloin smothered with native cheese from the northern Cebu town of Compostela. That's where the best "*queso blanco*" in this province is made. They have a non-fat version, too.

Tidbits of traditional Visayan delicacies were on the dessert plate. It was quite a thrill to pour all that *latik* over a slab of *biko*. Excellent wines from California, France, Italy and Germany were served throughout the dinner with felicitous results.

AMBASSADOR Philippe Lhuillier and brother Michel Lhuillier who heads La Chaine des Rotisseurs in the Philippines

MONA and Tim Wright

ANGIE and Martin Miranda

HANS and Bo Hauri

ROSE and Karl Hudson

Induction

What's next for La Chaine in Cebu? A dazzling induction of new members on March 9 at the Marriott Hotel. In the midst of strategic planning are Rose and Karl Hudson, the hotel's GM.

Teresin Mendezona and Dr. Nestor Alonso gave us an inkling. Ladies will be requested to wear any color save red. Is that what the scheme is all about?

Wedding collection updates Filipiniana

RE-INTERPRETING CLASSIC Filipiniana is the theme of the 2007 Classic Wedding collection of the Fashions by Wedding Designers of the Philippines.

The FWDP's Filipiniana Wedding collection takes traditional Filipiniana and fuses it with contemporary touches to come up with a collection that is both classic and fresh at the same time.

The collection consists of rich embroidery and cuts that draw inspiration from the traditional *panuelo* and the terno, but stylized and re-interpreted by FWDP members Edwin Uy, Susie Bonaobra, Joel Bautista, Ruel Rivera, Jerome Ang, Dennis Martin, Carmen Lazaro, Randall Solomon, Joel Escober, Shanon Pamaong, Delby P. Bragais and current president Michelle Lim.

The FWDP 2007 Filipiniana Wedding Collection will be on display, along with other creations by FWDP members, at the Wedding Expo next month at the PICC Forum.

"We will be showing two gowns per designer, with seven booths," said FWDP spokesperson Shanon Pamaong.

The 2007 FWDP Filipiniana Wedding Collection was photographed at the sprawling and romantic Hacienda Isabella in Tagaytay, owned by pop diva Kuh Ledesma.

Art direction and fashion styling by Noel Manapat. Hair and make-up styling by Tonet Chua, Jackie Rivera, Rolex Rivera, Edgar Soriano, Teddy Mendoza and Gay Fermin-Honrade.

The photographs were taken by the Wedding Photographers of the Philippines: Louie Allan, Allan Borras, Lito Genilo, Richel Mascarinas, and Dino Lara.

Sponsors are Flowers and Foliage, Hizon's Catering and Josiah's Catering.

Marriage encounter March 9-11

ANOTHER MARRIAGE ENcounter (ME) weekend seminar will be held March 9-11, at the St. Bridget's Convent, Mag-asawang Ilat, Tagaytay City.

The event is sponsored by the Reaching Out for the Lord (ROL) Series of the Tuklasan Sector-Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines.

Spearheaded by Raymond and Nao Checa, and their ROL 24 classmates, the live-in weekend seminar is for married couples seeking fulfillment and rejuvenation in their marriages. It also aims to help participants redirect their relationship to be Christ-centered.

The ecclesial team will be composed of Rev. Fr. Jess V. Fernandez, S.J.; Rudy and Menie Ledesma and Domeng and Lui Alagde.

Call 0918-9119680, 0918-9119672 or 8715141, 0915-5496035, 7314868, 7408816, 7408627 and 0919-4488038.

Deadline for registration/reservation is March 5. Seminar fee is P2,600 per couple.

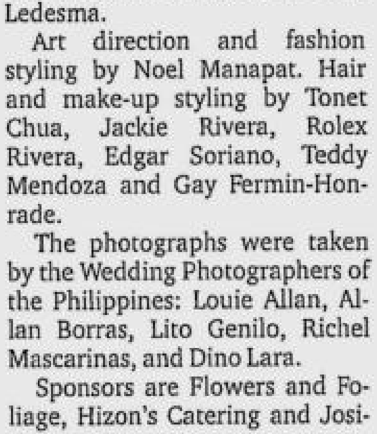
St. Padre Pio pilgrimage

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR St. Pio of Pietrelcina Inc. (PCSPPI) organized a pilgrimage May 9-22.

Spearheading the St. Pio pilgrimage is PCSPPI chair, lawyer Rafael Ortigas Jr., and president Ramon and wife Didi Rodriguez. The third St. Pio pilgrimage, it will include visits to Pietrelcina, the saint's birthplace; shrine of Padre Pio at the Basilica and Our Lady of Grace, San Giovanni, Rotondo, where he received his stigmata from the Lord, and St. Michael's cave where he experienced several apparitions by St. Michael, the Archangel.

The pilgrimage includes St. Peter's Basilica for the papal blessing, the Vatican Museum, Colosseum, the Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain.

Also in the itinerary are visits to shrines of St. Francis of Assissi, Monte Casino of St. Benedict, Lanciano, St. Rita de Cascia at the Sanctuary, St. Claire, Lourdes, Cathedral of Notre Dame, and Sacre Coeur.


ST. PIO of Pietrelcina

A chaplain and spiritual director, a devotee of St. Pio, will accompany the group. Included in the package are breakfast and dinner with accommodations at first-class hotels. PCSPPI can be reached through 0921-9554410.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Father has another family

DEAR EMILY,

I just petitioned for my parents to join us in the United States and they now live with me and my family here.

My problem is my father has a second family in the Philippines that my mom is unaware of. I have chosen not to confront him or inform my mother about this yet.

He is currently looking for a job so he and my mom can rent an apartment of their own. Soon, he will need to send money to the Philippines to support his other family.

I am guessing that my father will be unable to keep this a secret for long once he and my mom start living on their own. I am hoping that he will confess to my mother about his other family so they can face this situation together.

I have been dropping hints to my mom just to prepare her for the possibility. But, of course, she chooses to believe that having another family is something that my father will not do.

She has always been lenient with him having a "good" time, as long as he does not cross the line and "fall in love" and have another family.

Needless to say, this is causing me a lot of stress because I cannot discuss this with anyone else in our family.

My question is, what if my father continues to hide his secret from my mother? Am I compelled to tell her?

There is no way that this situation will not hurt everyone in our family when it is exposed. I am worried for both of my parents.

SHEILA

This is a case of "damn if you do and damn if you don't."

Washing your hands of your father's affair and telling yourself it is none of your business is going to be perceived by your mother as a betrayal of her.

But then, you will be at the receiving end of your mother's untold fury if you preempt your father's confession.

I cannot blame you for your anxiety because, clearly, you are in a fix here.

You should focus your ire on your father. He is the culprit! He instigated the problem. He should carry—and resolve—the problem himself!

How? By making a clean breast of it to your mother—the woman he cheated on. There is no way though that he can abandon his children with the other woman.

He should financially support them especially if they are still in school.

Your duty, after all is said and done, is to console your mother, for whatever it is worth—and hold her hand while she is digesting all this.

From there, have a fresh start and let everybody's life move on.

There will be recriminations and explosions of fury for a while, but thank God for time! It is the only element in the universe that can heal wounds and blur painful memories.

In the meantime, tell your father to shape up, zip up, and court your mother again. He owes her!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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'Happy Walk' marks Down Syndrome Month

THE DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (DSAP) is calling on people to join today's "Happy Walk," a celebration of the 5th National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month, as declared by Presidential Proclamation No. 157 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales will lead the walk together with 3,000 children and adults with Down Syndrome, as well as volunteers, doctors, therapists, teachers, students, and parents, at 10 a.m. around the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Registration fee is P10. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the parking area fronting EDSA, Building B, SM Megamall. There will also be Happy Walks in Cebu and Davao cities.

It is estimated that one Filipino child with DS is born every two hours. There are approximately 100,000 children with DS all over the Philippines today.

The DSAP campaigns for the social acceptance of DS people in the country.

The DSAP holds office at 6372 Agrifina Building, Camia and Meleguas Sts, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Call 895-96-42 or 895-36-06. E-mail dsapi@hotmail.com

In Davao, call DSAP at (82) 234-2280. E-mail: dsapi_davao@yahoo.com

In Cebu, call +63 (32) 414-62-10 or +63 (32) 238-01-05

In Bacolod, call Child's Play, (034) 433-6441 / 434-1734.

Milestones

ALQUIZA-CABANG

Reynaldo V. Alquiza, Jr., son of engineer **Reynaldo** and **Remedios Alquiza** will wed **Joanne Gay E. Cabang**, daughter of **Ernesto** and **Dr. Letecia Cabang** on April 28, at the St. Peter and Paul Parish, General Santos City.

CORPUZ WEDDING

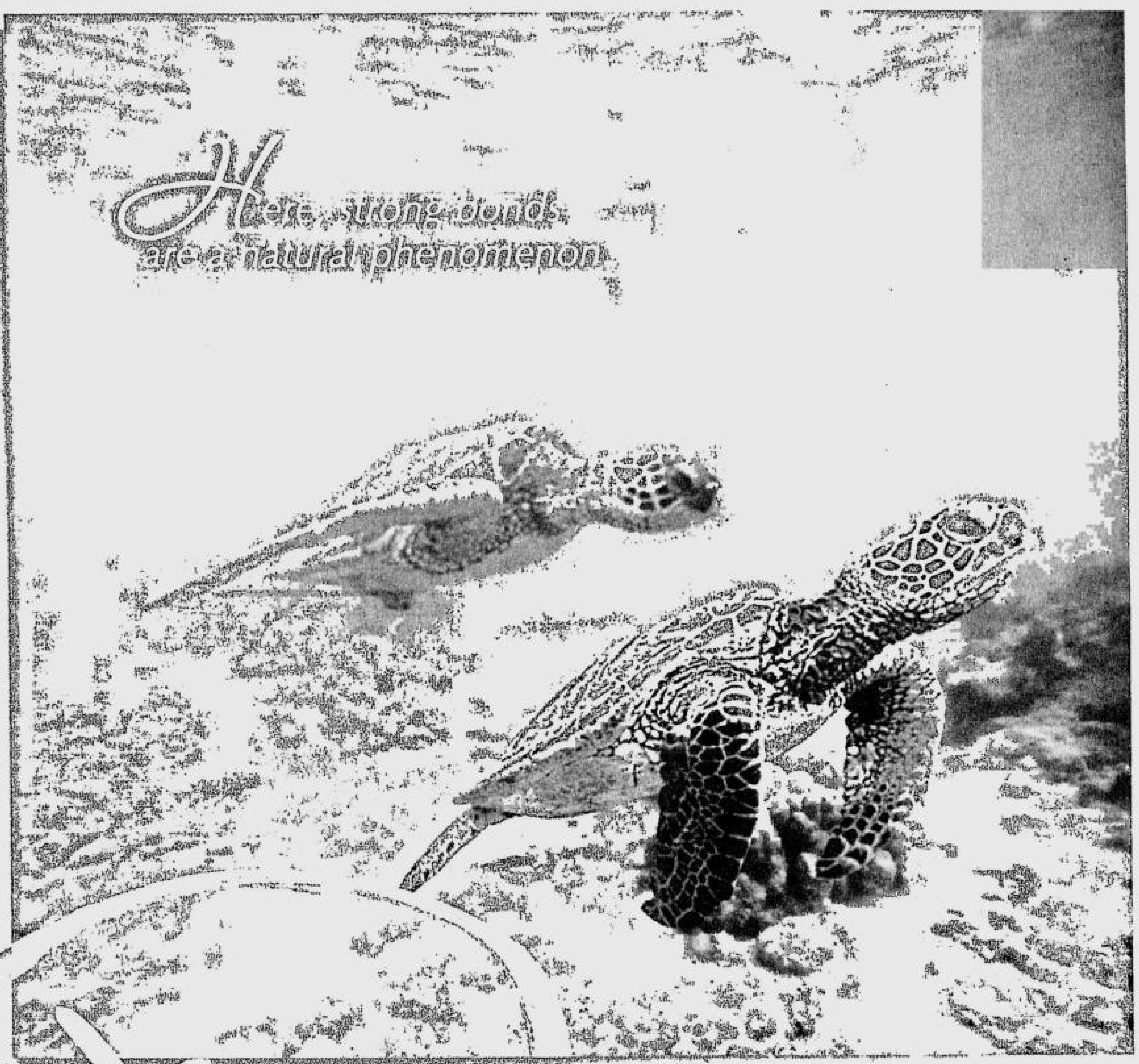
Eli and **Jehan (nee Bundang) Corpuz** of Florida, United States exchanged vows at the Saint Francis de Assisi Chapel, Fernwood Gardens in Quezon City.

MUSCAT DEBUT

Ms. Regine **Camille B.** Muscat, daughter of Patrick and **Eleanor** Muscat, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance party on March 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, Ortigas, San Juan. **Regine** is currently a 2nd Year college student in University of Asia and the Pacific.

Her gowns were designed by **Jae S. Eleria**.

AyalaLand PREMIER



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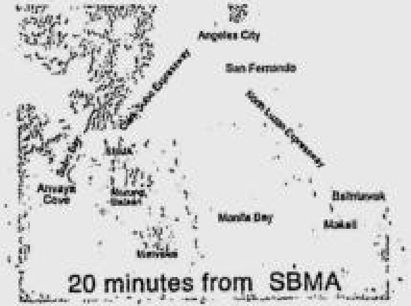

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CARDINAL Rosales anoints a sick man while Nellie Delgado assists.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Order of Malta volunteers in Lourdes

MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD of the Sovereign Order of Malta will converge in May in Lourdes, France, to minister to the sick for a whole month.

The Order of Malta Philippines will be led by its president, Ernest Rufino.

The organization is both a Catholic religious order and an order of knighthood. Blessed Gerard founded in 1099 in Jerusalem the Order of the Hospital.

In 1113, Pope Paschal V approved the order's constitution, placing it under the protection of the Holy See. It was mandated to defend the faith and care for the sick.

Philippine chapter

Filipino members of the order wore white with the eight-pointed Maltese Cross on their chests during the Healing Mass at Espiritu Santo Parish Church in Tayuman Street, Sta. Cruz.

At least 1000 sick and old people, some in wheelchairs, attended the Mass concelebrated by Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales with some 30 priests led by Msgr. Albert Salonga, parish priest.

A blind woman read the Epistle in braille and another woman with disability sang the Responsorial Psalm. In his homily, Cardinal Rosales said everyone was sick, not only physically but also spiritually.

He and the 30 priests anointed the people's foreheads and hands with holy oil.

Members of the order led the priests to the different pews. Present during the event were Ernest and Josie Rufino; Cherie Pie Villonco-Lazatin, commentator for the Mass; Rosemarie Prieto; Marivic Concepcion, who provided juices for the lunch after the Mass; Alice and Mike Guerrero, Rosie Valencia, Dr. Jaime Lapuz, Mercy Tuason, Nellie Delgado, Trining Panicucci, and Ody Arroyo.

Also there was Malta's ambassador to the Philippines, Jimmy Yim.

50th year

The order will mark its 50th year in the country with High Mass on March 23, 10:30 a.m., at the Arzobispado Chapel. Cardinal Rosales will officiate with Msgr. Bong Lo, magisterial chaplain, concelebrating.

The organization assists in 200 hospices, donating medicines and wheelchairs. Poor disabled who need wheelchairs can write to Order of Malta, Pope Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Ave., Ermita, Manila; call 5255302.

Day of the sick

Churches around the world celebrated recently the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, also the 14th World Day of the Sick as proclaimed by Pope John Paul II in 1993.

Fr. Jun Solomon, chaplain of the Cardinal Santos Hospital, gave the homily during the Mass at Harrison Plaza Chapel. Fr. Sanny de Claro concelebrated the Mass with Fr. Jun, Fr. Jeff Jamias and Fr. Nonoy Adaba.

Fr. Jun said the celebration affirmed that Mary held the cure of the sick who was Jesus. He also said "sickness is one way to be with Jesus in His suffering."

Every year, Belen and Tony Martel come home for the special day. Tony Martel is deeply devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes and donated the chapel's life-size image.

Testimony

Tess Baniqued, a lector during Masses at the chapel, mentioned miraculous changes in her daughter's cancer. Agnes Baniqued-Maliquid contracted breast cancer in 2000. Last year, it was found that the cancer had spread.

Tess said, "I prayed to Our Lady of Lourdes believing she would help. Agnes had emergency radiation for 20 days and underwent eight cycles of chemotherapy. After the third cycle, she had CT scan of the neck, lungs and bones.

Tess said there was very good improvement in her lungs, some nodules completely disappearing. The spread also seemed to have been arrested.

Healing center

Charismatic healer Fr. Diwane Cacao led the celebration of the seventh anniversary of Sancti Dei Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, with the induction of the members of the Confraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes and a healing Mass.

The center has a grotto of Our Lady where people pray. Healing Masses of Fr. Cacao are at 9 a.m., Friday and Sunday.

'Himig Hesuita'

Ten singing Jesuit priests held a fundraising concert at the St. Francis Xavier Parish on 16th Street in New York. The "Himig Hesuita" was coordinated with Zenaida Abbariao, VP of the Piat Legacy Foundation for North America. Part of the proceeds went to Zeny's favorite charity, the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz on Broome Street, also in New York.

Exhibit

Since the parish was established in 1999, the community of Our Lady of Pentecost in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, has truly taken the dream of a church to heart. The parish was set up with no church, no convent, no land or property and a young parish priest, Fr. Steven Zabala.

The fledgling parish had strong ties to Santa Maria della Strada and it was difficult for parishioners to break the bond. But the parish has bonded and dreams of a place of worship, a parish church where people could gather and give praise.

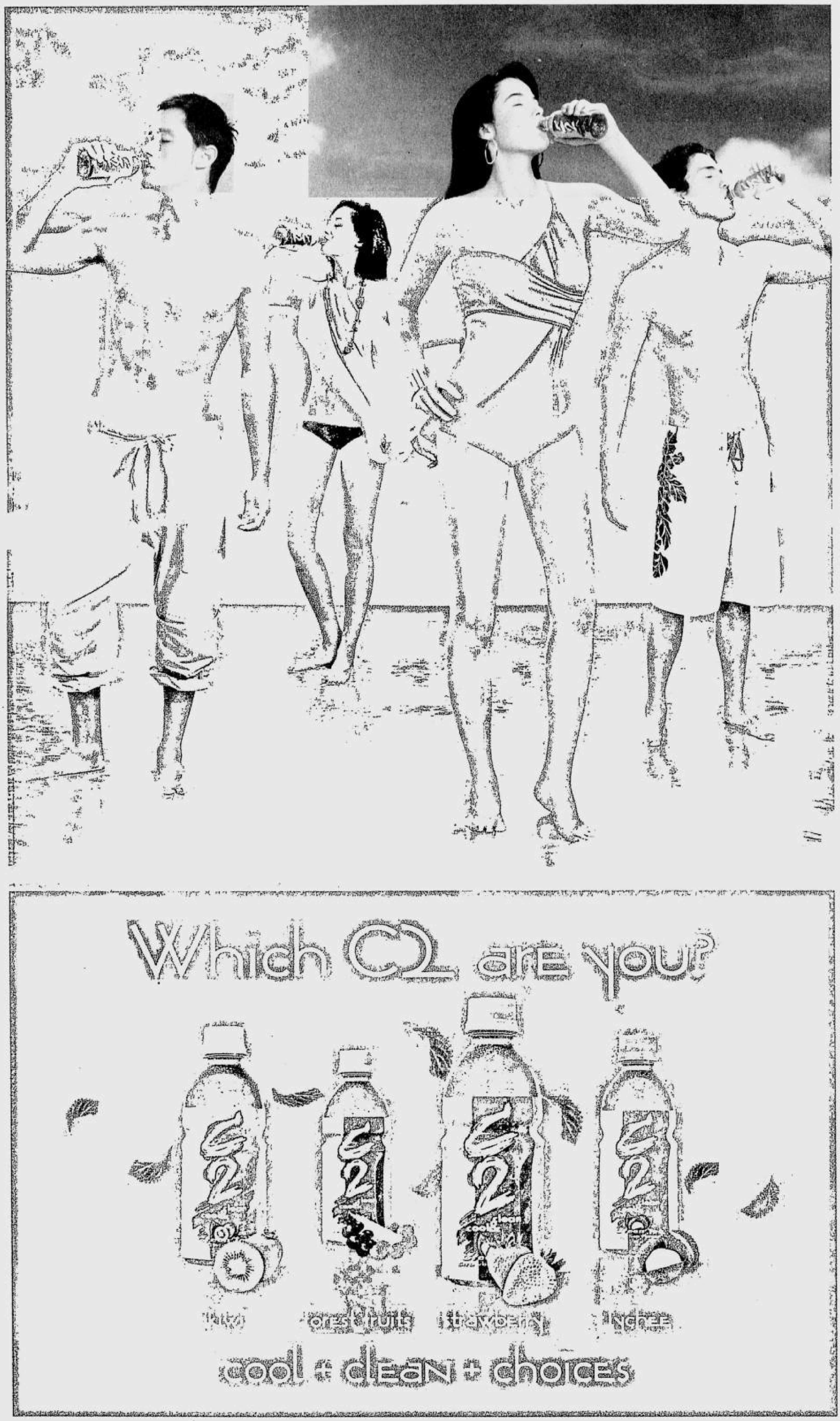
Among those who embraced the dream was Alice Yap Mabanta. Before she passed away in 2002, she expressed a desire that her paintings be used to help build the parish church. Her works were sold during two exhibits, "In Thanksgiving," in 2002 and 2004.

Fr. Jose Tupino III, pastor of Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, is inviting people to the third exhibit Feb. 24-March 11; tel. 9290665 or 4342397.

The Eucharistic Adorers League will hold a vigil March 1, 5:30 p.m., at the Pink Sisters Convent on Hemady Street, New Manila.

CHARISMATIC healing priest Fr. Diwane Cacao heals a patient at the Sancti Dei Healing Center in Los Baños Feb. 11.

BELEN Martel with our Lady of Lourdes at Harrison Plaza Chapel



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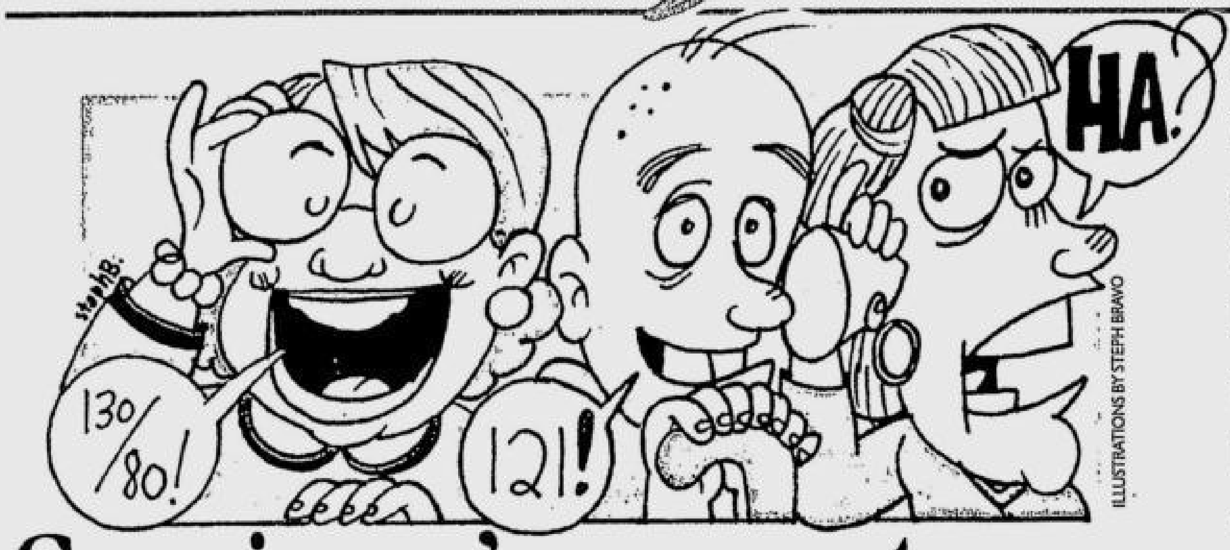
stephB.
130/80!
121!
HA?

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Senior Alert! Looking for your glasses? Check body. Forehead first, then neck, (for the chain attached to the missing spectacles)

Seniors' report

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

MAX LUNA IS MY FIRST cousin who taught me how to tango when I was 12. He lives in America and I had not seen him for 40 years. Now 80, he is visiting his sister Tita in Manila so of course I wanted to see Max and perhaps take him ballroom dancing to complete the cycle. (He should be a good dancer being the father of Max Jr. who teaches with the famous Alvin Ailey group in New York).

I wanted Max also to meet up with our other first cousin, Viniang Mendoza, now 87, and Letty Delgado 83, once married to another first cousin. And I wanted my sister Tess, who is blind, along, and my wonderful brother-in-law Alex.

The ideal place for us to lunch was my house in Quezon City. But my good cook had long been purloined into service as my husband's caregiver so I decided to just treat all my cousins to a nice resto.

Max lives with Tita in Malate so they preferred to eat around Remedios circle. "I use a walker with wheels," said Viniang, "But as long as it's in the Mandaluyong area I can be present." Letty had a garden show in Alabang. "If you all decide to have lunch in Alabang I can make it," she said. And Tess wanted Makati, of course, near her shop.

I had to pick up Max and Tita because Max's eyesight is non-too-good plus he didn't know his way around anymore. Viniang needed a companion but was uncertain about asking her daughter, Marissa, who might get bored stiff with our talk. So I asked Marissa myself and her sister Melinda, just to make sure Viniang could come. I never realized how complicated ageing could be. The lunch had turned into an unwieldy operation involving four cities, coordination, fetching and yaya problems. (It did turn out a very happy and nostalgic lunch).

Later I told Rose Sison that I wanted to take Max to our ballroom dancing day in her studio in New Manila. I was so sure my old glamour puss pals would enjoy some cha-cha with an 80-year-old from Manhattan.

"Not so," warned Rose. "You'd be surprised. Our matrons are not interested in dancing with ageing *balikbayans*. They'd rather have vigorous young partners." What a pleasant epiphany! I thought it was always just the men who shunned older partners!

Over in my husband's gang of seniors that meets monthly for lunch, old age is rampant too. The deaths of "Mac" Macaraig, Bien Ocampo and Melding Reyes have left a gaping hole. Left standing (Celi Macaraig is sitting in a wheelchair) are Alex Z. Reyes, Nilda Ocampo, Louie Ascalon, Tito and Alma Pronove, Elo Fernando and me but no one hears anything.

This is a typical lunch exchange: Tito: "My blood sugar is 121, what's yours?" Alex: (proudly) "I'm 20-20!" Elo: "I'm certainly better off than you guys—130 over 80!" Alma: "Ano ba kayo, mga bingi?!!" All three: "Ha??"

From one of the group's children: "You look so young, Tita! Truly, how old are you?" Proudly: "Seventy seven!" "Oh, hindi halata! You look only seventy six! (Oh dear, she was 76 yesterday! Today's her birthday treat).

Kindness

Celi is afflicted with Alzheimer's and it always used to miff me when friends would give her what appeared to me like memory tests. Like, once, one of the gang gave each of us a pack of oatmeal from the States. Alma read the contents and instructions on the label painstakingly to Celi. It annoyed me because we all knew that even if one read it 10 times to her, Celi wouldn't remember. "I know that," said Alma, unruffled. "I'm just reading it to her because I want Celi to feel she's still part of our conversation." How quickly I forget how kind people can be!

Sylvia Ventura of our Friday dance group, when I asked her if she ever scolds her maids, replied, "No. Why should I? They do so much for me!" I should remember that too. And that last Christmas my sister's salesgirls all bought lotto tickets and made a pact. If any of them won, the cash would go to an airline ticket for Tess to visit her grandkids in Texas!

Come to think of it, the milk of kindness overflows even on the dancefloor in Rose's studio when the DIs boogie and rock-and-roll with Tess. I see that the boys are dancing their

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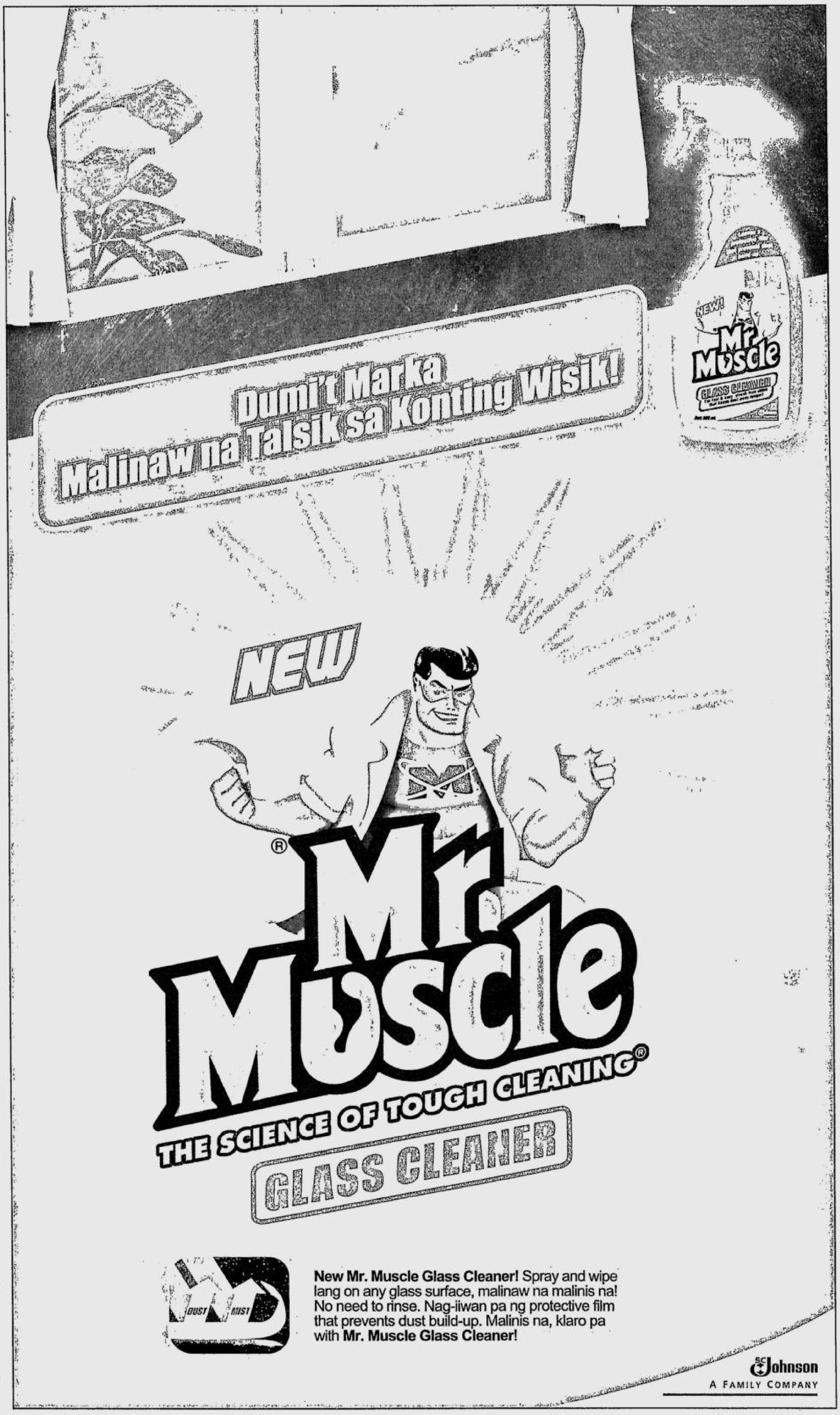

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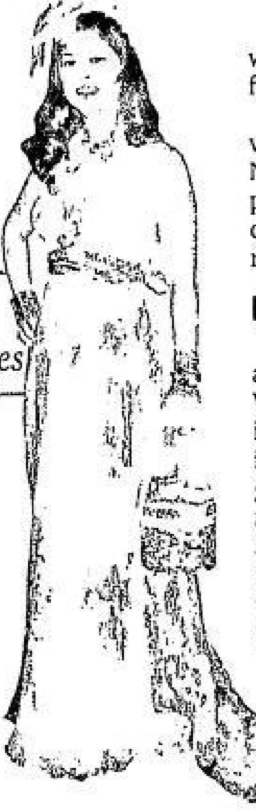
Seize life with passion!

There are many roads to success, but the first step is for each of us to define what that word means for us

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes



IN THE CIRCLE OF LIFE, ONE of the major milestones is graduating from college. For many, this marks the beginning of the second stage—independence—in one's life journey.

Like many young Filipinos, my eldest son, **Bryan Prieto**, is graduating this May. He recently e-mailed me with his thoughts on what might happen in the future. He was hoping for some guidelines or even a map to plan out the future.

Among the many roles I play, I feel I am least competent with business advice for my kids. After all, I am more into the artistic aspects of things, so my expertise is in color matching, furniture trends and, of course, shopping.

I was at a dilemma on how to advise him, so I left it to my acute businessman husband to e-mail Bryan. After all, my advice might be for him to work in the Gap so I could avail of his employee's discount.

However, after reading the highly inspirational book "NeGOsyo: Joey Concepcion's 50 Inspiring Entrepreneurial Stories" I now have sound advice to give my son: become an entrepreneur!

In fact, one of the Filipino entrepreneurs cited in the book is his grandmother **Marixi Prieto**. With summarized business lessons at the end of each story, "NeGOsyo" makes for quick reading and is quite easy to grasp.

At the book launch, graced by the country's top entrepreneurial families and guest of honor **President Macapagal Arroyo**, Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship founding trustee **Joey Concepcion** brought together so many successful individuals whose examples might inspire people from all walks of life. The affair was held at Joey's stunning residence, newly finished by architect **Ed Calma**.

A sense of overwhelming optimism prevailed that evening. With his battlecry "Go NeGOsyo," Joey is doing a lot to drum up pride, optimism and enthusiasm to bring our country forward and closer to greater grassroots economic prosperity.

Household name

As I floated along in the sea of economic giants, I spotted Gawad Kalinga's (GK) **Dylan Wilk**, whom I had met just as GK was becoming a household name in community building. He shared with me that last January, guest volunteers from Australia, United States and Canada came in droves to stay for at least two weeks in various GK sites all over the country. The Australian delegation alone was composed of 77 members from various universities and youth groups.

In my own very little way of sharing the enthusiasm, I joined as a mentor to the Entrepreneurs School of Asia's Teenpreneur Challenge. I guided an Assumption high school team to innovate and recreate fresh ideas to improve a GK product.

Our product was a paper vase made from carton. It was pretty but not very functional, so the girls suggested different ways to transform the unit into something more useful and marketable. Our competitors are just as enterprising, so I just hope we meet the challenge with high marks.

The penultimate stage of the Teenpreneur Challenge is a GK Bazaar that will be held at the SM Mall of Asia from March 2-4, in the Esplanade area. On March 3, President Arroyo will join the event to present the Teenpreneur Challenge Award. Call 6381188.

"TEENPRENEURS" from Assumption High School with Sea Princess, Sr. Gertrude Borres and Joel Santos

FOLDED & Hung owner Ronald Pineda with Assumption high school team

MARTINIS manager Javier Berenguer-Testa and Mandarin Hotel GM Helmut Gaisberger

CANADIAN jazz diva Karen Manion and the BluRoom Band

Environment exhibit

After GK, move to BK. Hop over to the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell on March 2 to see "The Phases of La Mesa Dam: A Photo Exhibit."

The country's top photographers are lending their art, expertise and time to support Bantay Kalikasan's (BK) H2Hope environmental awareness and fund generation campaign. Bantay Kalikasan (Nature Watch) is the environmental protection advocacy arm of ABS-CBN Foundation.

The exhibit is just one of BK's efforts for clean water, all part of the H2Hope campaign. The portraits on exhibit will be given as tokens of appreciation to the major donors, while the rest of the photos taken by the artists will be used for special merchandising materials that will go on sale soon. Proceeds will be used to sustain efforts at the La Mesa Watershed. This is Manila's main source of fresh water and is, inexplicably and frustratingly, still under constant threat of contamination and destruction.

Birthdays are another of life's milestones that can be celebrated in many ways. For some, the event is a chance to party, but the most meaningful ones are those spent for charity.

For her recent birthday, lovable **Gina de Venecia** led the groundbreaking ceremonies for the construction of a daycare center in Don Bosco Complex, Parañaque City, together with President Arroyo and fellow Assumptionista **Celine Bautista**.

Another highlight that afternoon was the turnover of the presidency of the Assumption HS' 66 and College '70 Foundation from Celine to *Manay* **Gina**. This foundation has supported countless civic projects and donated much to the Assumption Mission Schools. Good karma will surely shine on these lovely ladies.

Stylish bar

For those who prefer celebrating milestones in party mode, head to the newest swanky nightspot, Mandarin Oriental's Martinis Bar.

This stylish, art deco-theme bar has an expansive showcase of the widest variety of martinis, classic cocktails, wines and many other exciting drinks, aperitifs and digestives.

Setting the right jazz groove ambience in the evenings, sultry Canadian jazz diva **Karen Manion**, backed up by the BluRoom Band, provides a swinging musical interplay of jazz and soul standards, funky RnB and pop music. The premier bar (where smoking is allowed) will surely be a hot destination for listening to cool jazz, sipping the best martinis whether shaken or stirred, and enjoying a license to chill.

Summer is fast approaching, a sure sign that the circle of life keeps moving forward and onward, neither stopping or waiting for anyone.

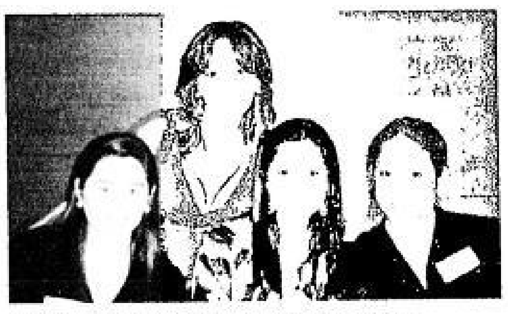
To Bryan and all the young graduates out there, seize life with passion! There are many roads to success, but the first step is for each of us to define what that word means for us.

To some, success is measured by wealth, and there is no shortage of successful entrepreneurs to learn from. To others, success is measured by giving back, and again, there is no shortage of GKs and BKs for us to get involved in.

The best part of life, of course, is that the choice is ours.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

CONTEMPORARY art deco-theme Martinis Bar

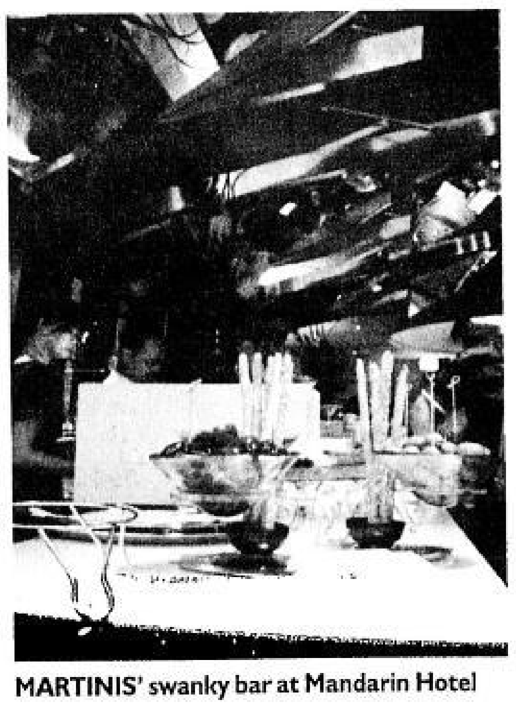


GRACIOUS host Marissa Concepcion (standing), Peach Concepcion, Kit Zobel and Doris Magsaysay-Ho

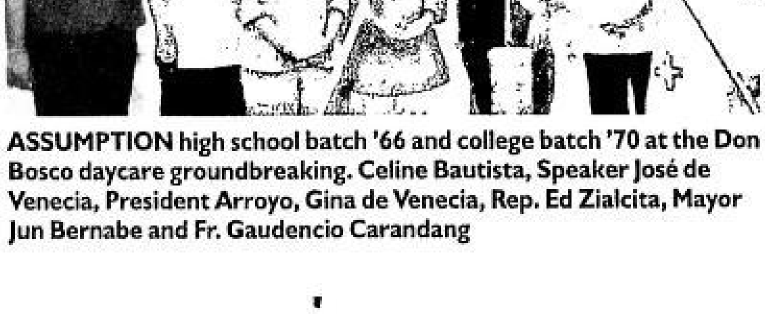
ARCHITECT Ed Calma with lovely ladies Rosanna Fores, Gaita Fores and Tina Periquet

GAWAD Kalinga's Tony Meloto and Dylan Wilk with Paing Hechanova

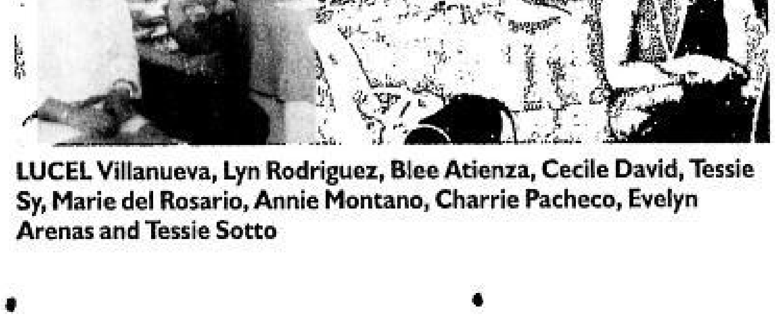
GO NEGOSYO director Myla Villanueva and Sen. Mar Roxas



MARTINIS' swanky bar at Mandarin Hotel



ASSUMPTION high school batch '66 and college batch '70 at the Don Bosco daycare groundbreaking. Celine Bautista, Speaker José de Venecia, President Arroyo, Gina de Venecia, Rep. Ed Zialcita, Mayor Jun Bernabe and Fr. Gaudencio Carandang



LUCEL Villanueva, Lyn Rodriguez, Blee Atienza, Cecile David, Tessie Sy, Marie del Rosario, Annie Montano, Charrie Pacheco, Evelyn Arenas and Tessie Sotto

LONG-TIME friends Louie Locsin, Marot Moreno, Mary de Leon, celebrator Gina de Venecia, Sylvia Illusorio and Patty Gallardo

Seniors' report

From page E1

best even if they know my sister can't see them anyway (they could easily just be standing stock still!) They even get down on the floor doing street dancing stunts while partnering with Tess. While everyone cheers.

Tita Elsie Cacnio, 80, who has memory lapses, also gets a dose of DI love. Once she joined our group dance and got lost in the maze. One of the DIs just caught her and hugged her tight so that she wouldn't stray.

Check body first

Senior Alert! Looking for your glasses? Check body. Forehead first, then neck, (for the chain attached to the missing spectacles). Retrace what part of the house you came from, muttering "glasses, glasses, glasses" otherwise you might be diverted by some other thing. For shortcut, just ask the maid directly.

Before you go out of the house make sure the rouge on your cheeks are of equal intensity. Ditto for the shade and shape of your eyebrows. Check hair. Make sure it is evenly distributed on all the vacant spaces in front.

In all other matters, don't take things personally. Don't get mad at the answering machine. Don't swear off the manufacturer who produces only ladies' pants that rest on the hips. (Hips are the new waist). Nor rant at T-shirts that display half of the boobs and you have none. (Whoever said God created human beings equal?).

Be wise, economize. But please try not to order, ten of you, ten macaroni soups for supper, whipping up ten senior citizen cards. Ok, ok, so it's your right.

You don't have to stand your ground all the time (like old people). Be flexible. Do one spontaneous thing a day. Like kissing the nice guy talking to you. You'd be surprised at how tolerant wives have become of kisses even from septuagenarians who think they're still sexy.

Avoid adopting fixed beliefs (especially of others). It's worse than wrinkles. Don't you notice that the moment something becomes a rule, it changes? Look at the Mass goers now walking down the aisle intently chewing their communion hosts. Without turning into pillars of salt, as we were mercilessly brainwashed to believe by the nuns. 137 wars are being fought world wide over religions, especially the bible when a lot of it never even happened. By the way, an argument over dogma is more perilous than singing "My Way."

Diet dialectic

Things change. I grew up healthily on a diet of fried pork chops with a generous slab of fat. Now my alternative medicine doctor, who is not Muslim, says "Pork is bad! Don't touch *baboy*!" My acupuncturist doctor says pork is okay but not beef which is difficult to digest. My Japanese friend Shoko says, "All meat good except those that fly." "Chicken is the best meat," my vegetarian-except-for-chicken adviser says, "as long as it was not raised on chicken feed pumped with chemicals." My doctor in Heart Center says, "Eat everything. Be happy. The latest finding is that overweight people live longer than thin people."

For a while I was into vegetarianism but looking for greens that grew without pesticide and fertilizer is like searching for a virgin, and I finally gave up. My friend Narita Gonzalez eats *chicharon* and *lechon*, and is deathless at 88. But then two gourmets finished a whole *cochinillo* between them and one of them died of a heart attack the next day.

Coffee fell into disrepute (supposed to be leaching calcium from the bones) so I sacrificed it for three years. Now coffee is back in good graces but my colonics adviser says it should only be taken into the body through the rear end. Also, after I'd been taking massive doses of Vitamin C all my life, I learn that it really does nothing to abort a cold.

A *madre* teaching the macrobiotic diet said I must not eat my rice with any viand, and that fruit should be eaten separately (so that the enzymes do not get confused having to deal with everything at the same time). Water must be taken only one hour after a meal so as not to dilute the enzymes. I was convinced!

Then I found out I had diabetes. Fruit, I was told, was allowed, but only in small portions and always with all other food. If I felt I had imbibed a lot more sugar than was safe, the meal should at once be drowned with several glasses of water. Argh! What's a confused senior citizen to do?

'Kulit'

Suggested resolution for the piggy year: Do not be as kulit as the kid in the year-end joke below.

Anak, bili mo 'ko ng sopdrinks
Coke o Pepsi?
Coke.
Regular o lite?
Regular.
Bote o can?
Bote.
8 ounces o litro?
Buwisit, tubig na nga lang!
Mineral or natural?
Mineral.
Malamig o hindi?
Punyeta, hahampasin kita ng walis!
Tambo o tingting?
Hayup ka talaga!
Baka o baboy?

P.S. In theater, it's pouring riches! To die-for-shows—Bedtime Stories with Rody Vera and a formidable Filipino and Japanese cast, lately in Shoko Matsumoto's Sinag Theater and now CCP's Huseng Batute; Nonon Padilla's directorial comeback Belong Puti with an all star cast of PETA originals, at PETA Theater; Jose Estrella's staging of Basilia ng Malolos a zarzuela by Nic Tiongson at Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero Theater, U.P.

"The Last Full Moon" (UP Press) won the National Book Award for "Best Biography." It is available at Fully Booked, Power Books Greenbelt 4, Megamall and Alabang; National Bookstore Shangri-La, Greenhills, Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1, Podium and Alabang; Popular Bookstore, Q.C. Solidaridad Bookstore Padre Faura; Datelines in Cubao Shoe Expo and lately in A Different Bookstore, all branches.

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Enrollment ongoing for March batch!

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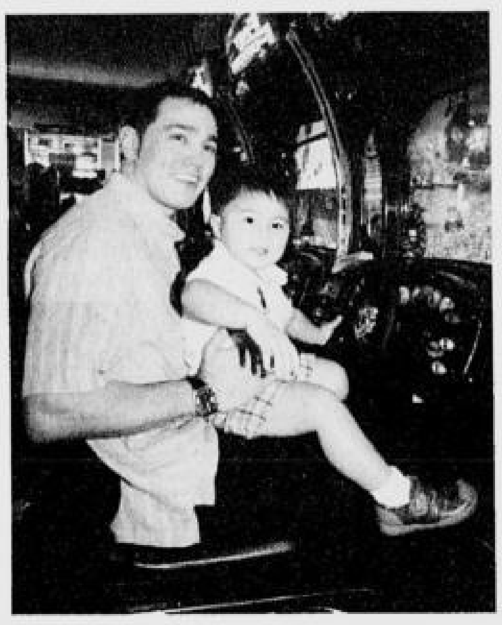
Man at work, kid at play



VINCE Hizon with son Vincente

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ALL work and no play? Well, basketball star turned environmentalist Vince Hizon obviously does.

Even with his busy daily schedule, he understands the importance of spending quality time with his son.

"Coming home to my wife Patricia and my son Vicente is something that I look forward to everyday," Hizon said. "Vicente and I just love running around and going to Timezone arcades. "My son loves the driving games at Timezone Glorietta 4. I guess he's going to be the next Shumacher."

For Hizon, enjoying life and having fun are a big part of his parenting philosophy.

PSFI staff and scholars alumni with Ambassador Peter Beckingham (second row, second from right), Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) country chair Edgar O. Chua (second row, fourth from right), PSFI Trustees Oscar Reyes and Rafael Hernaez (first row, fourth and third from right), Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. communications manager Facundo S. Roco (first row, ninth from right), PSFI Exec. Dir. Edgardo R. Veron Cruz (second row, seventh from right), and Malampaya Foundation executive director Luke Esteban (second row, first from right).

25 years of community engagement

IN AUGUST, PILIPINAS SHELL Foundation, Inc. (PSFI) celebrates 25 meaningful years of helping people go further in life.

Since 1982, PSFI has touched the lives of 689,809 individuals, and PSFI Executive Director Edgardo R. Veron Cruz is certain that PSFI will reach 1 million beneficiaries this year, with program expenditures to reach more than four times PSFI's achievement in the past 2 years.

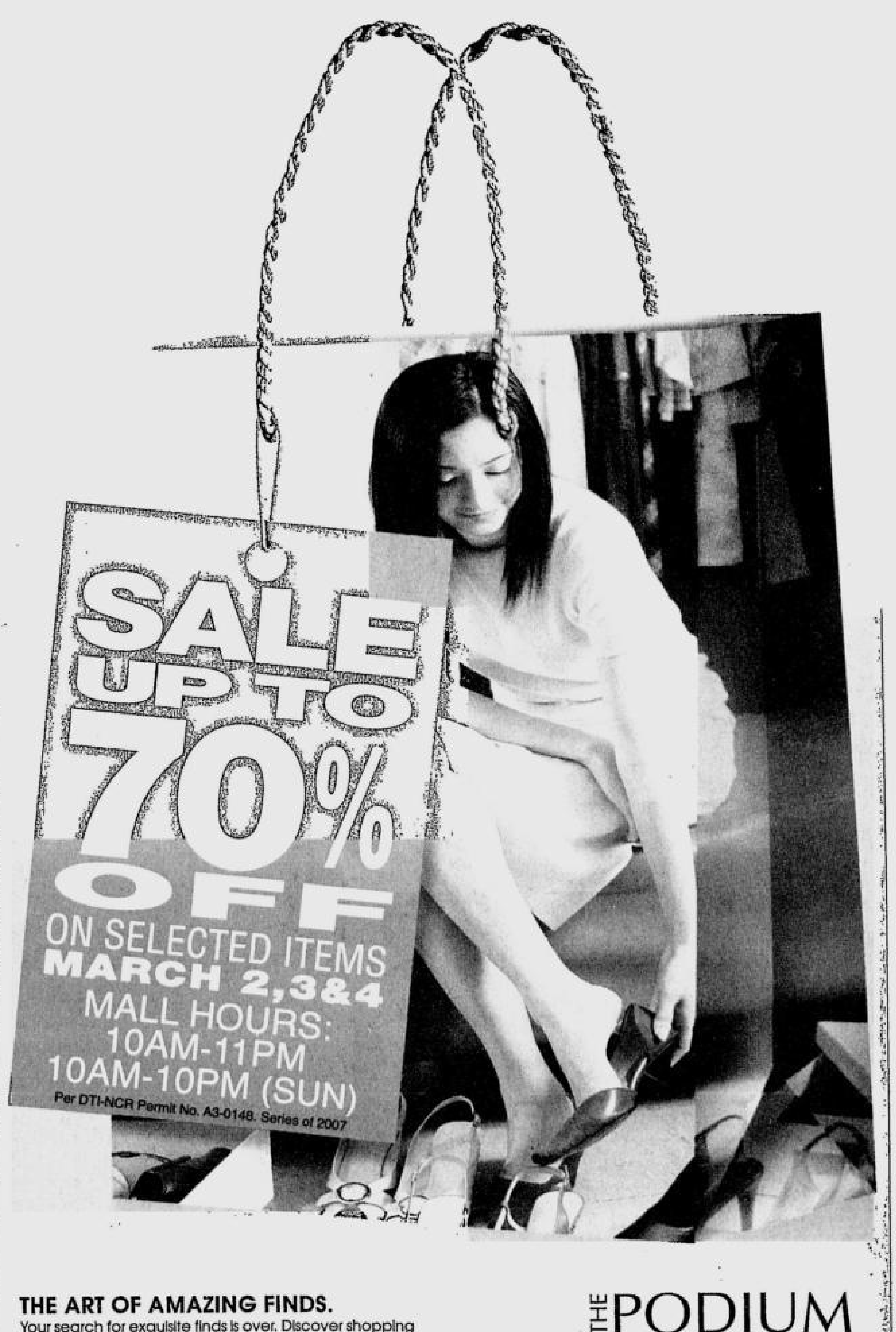
The announcement was made during PSFI's 25th year launching ceremony recently at Shell House, Makati City.

Veron Cruz also briefed guests and the public on the series of events PSFI will hold throughout the year. These include the launching of "Gas Mo, Bukas Ko" in March, the National Shell Youth Business Camp in April and Industry Forum for the *Sanayan sa Kakayahang Industriyal* (SKIL) Program in May, participation in an agricultural forum in June, inauguration of the 4th Shell Training Farm in Pililla, Rizal in July, conduct of a national malaria symposium in September, and sponsorship of a Waste Management Forum and presentation of Triple B (Bawas Basura sa Barangay) Program in October.

These activities build up to PSFI's 25th year anniversary celebration in Nov. 18, among the highlights of which is the giving of recognition to outstanding achievers from among PSFI's beneficiaries and valuable program partners.

Shell companies in the Philippines (SciP) country chair Edgar O. Chua said, "PSFI represents what Shell stands for, such as reaching out to communities and the environment."

Present during the launch were Ambassador Peter Beckingham, Netherlands Ambassador to the Philippines Robert Vornis, Health Undersecretary Ethellyn Nieto, World Health Organization malaria scientist Dr. Rahman Velayudhan, Quezon Power Limited president Frank Thiel and human resources director Litz Santana, Technological University of the Philippines-College of Industrial Technology dean Enrico Velayo, Dynamic Education president Bambina Buenaventura, Malampaya Foundation executive director Luke Esteban, PSFI Board of Trustees Oscar Reyes, Rafael Hernaez, Gina Ordoñez, lawyer Joselito Diga, lawyer Janet Regalado, and Romeo de Guzman. Members of the Shell Scholars Alumni Foundation, and Shell staff also witnessed the event.



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THE PODIUM
your place | your pace

March 2
Pops Fernandez
@ The Lounge, 5pm
Julia Duncan @ The Chill, 8pm

March 3
Christian Bautista
@ The Lounge, 6pm

March 4
Lani Misalucha
@ The Lounge, 5pm

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WAVE 89.1
Jam 88.3 your kind of mix
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Mac invades the metro

FASHION MEETS HI-TECH. Ria Bolivar and Melissa Frye sporting ocean-colored iPod Nanos

POWER MAC CENTER, THE biggest Apple Premium reseller in the Philippines, has opened.

The Apple-inspired center houses iPods, iMacs, Mac Minis and MacBooks.

In its launch, Power Mac Center treated Mac geeks to cocktails and wine provided by Kulinarya. DJ Jon Herrera mixed the music with his selection from iTunes.

The interiors consist of white walls and tiled floors. The center's aluminum-clad walls are made to look like the sleek exteriors of a MacBook Pro.

Customers are encouraged to test-drive the merchandise.

The store is arranged to facilitate appreciation of several Mac products.

The music section features working demo units of the complete line of iPods and speakers.

Right across the iPod section is the iLife section, with an array of photo solution products such as Canon Digital Ixus cameras and Pixma photo printers. Also there are MacBooks and iMacs.

MAC POWER OF THREE. Ms. Myrabelle Tan, Managing Director of Power Mac Center; Elizabeth Sy; Lawrence Sison, CEO

At the center is the Pro area, where a professional audio setup and a professional photo/video setup with M-Audio and high-end Canon imaging products are featured. Surrounding these areas are shelves and shelves of colorful and hi-tech accessories.

APPLE SUPPORT. Lesley Ang, Power Mac Center's marketing director with Juancho Calayan, Head of Product Management, BPI Express Credit Cards

The Power Mac Center is the place to go to learn anything and everything about Mac. One can hang out at the Tech Support Counter and consult the staff.

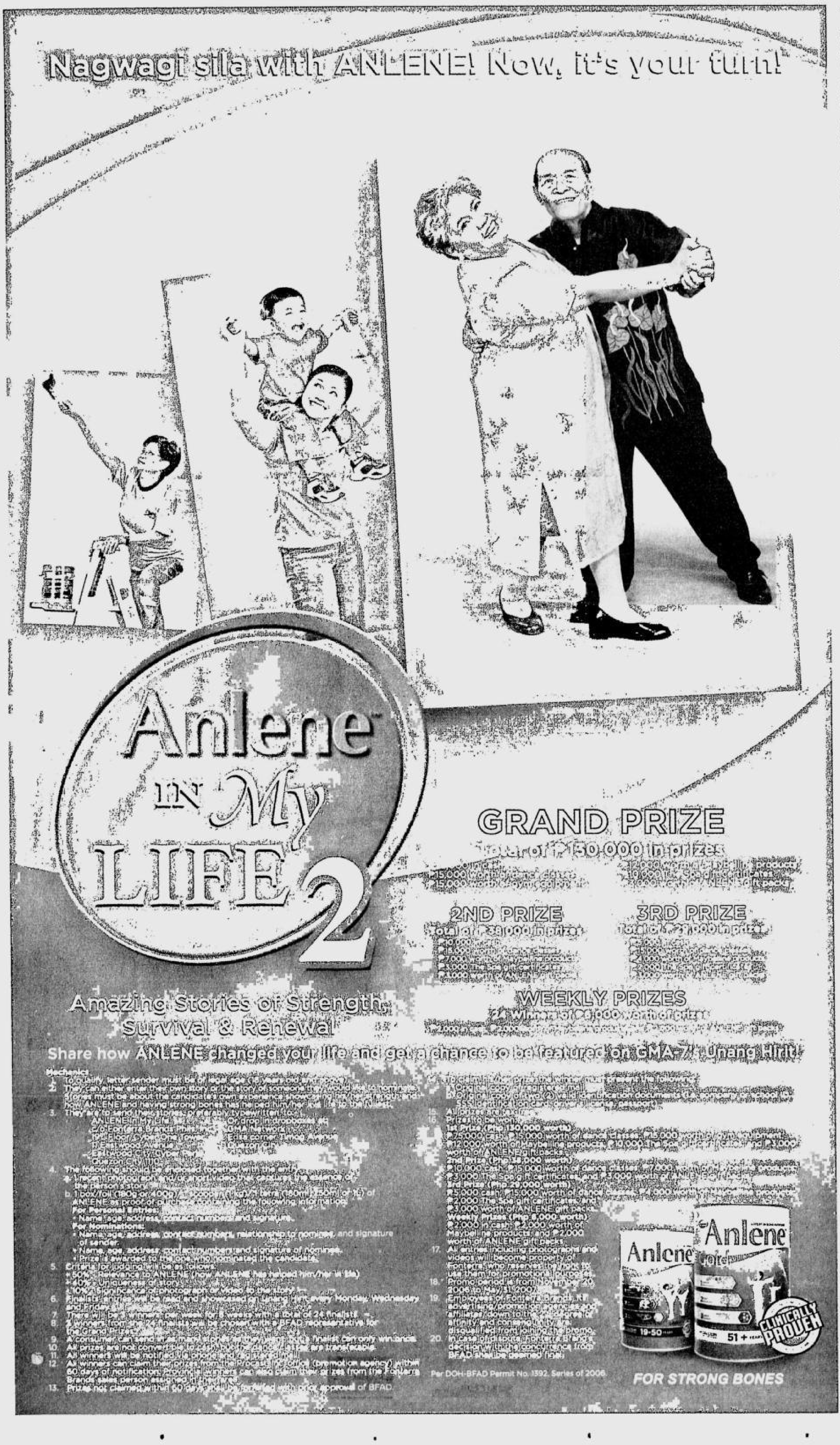
The Training Center offers free seminars on Mac for people who just bought or are planning to buy anything Mac.

The place also hosts the AppleCare Gold Service Center, for Mac repairs and maintenance.

The Power Mac Center flagship store is located at 2/F Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati. Other branches are at SM Megamall, Power Plant Mall, SM City North Edsa and the SM Mall of Asia.

WORKING THEIR APPLES! Power Mac Center CEO Lawrence Sison with wife Millie and Bb. Pilipinas-World Carlene Aguilar

MAC GEEKS never looked this good. Claude Jean Bocquet and Iago Raterta try out the MacBook.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IT'S "*SAYA* TO THE MAX" ON WEEKDAYS AT Star City with five rides absolutely free for every purchase of an entrance ticket at the regular price of P60.

This means five thrilling adventures on any of Star City's 33 rides and walk-through attractions without paying an extra centavo! But you have to hurry because this weekday promo ends March 31.

Still the Filipino family's favorite destination for over a decade now, Star City is also the only weather-proof recreation center with a fully air-conditioned indoor complex that's jampacked with breathtaking rides, exciting games and awesome walk-throughs, plus endless rows of novelty shops and food stalls that will surely score a hit with park-goers of all ages.

This summer, don't miss out on the country's only Surf Dance ride and three new attractions that retell some of history's most unforgettable tales of triumph and terror. Witness the mythical tale of Hercules come alive at the all-new Ice Palace. Travel through the high points of history in the engaging Time Tunnel. Dare to relive a most spine-tingling experience of medieval blood and gore in The Dungeon.

Aside from being fascinating and enjoyable, these new walk-throughs are designed to recreate memorable periods in history in a modern and interactive manner by stimulating the imagination of children and enticing them to absorb more information, as compared to the stale displays found in most museums.

They're happening daily 2 p.m. onwards only at Star City, conveniently located at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

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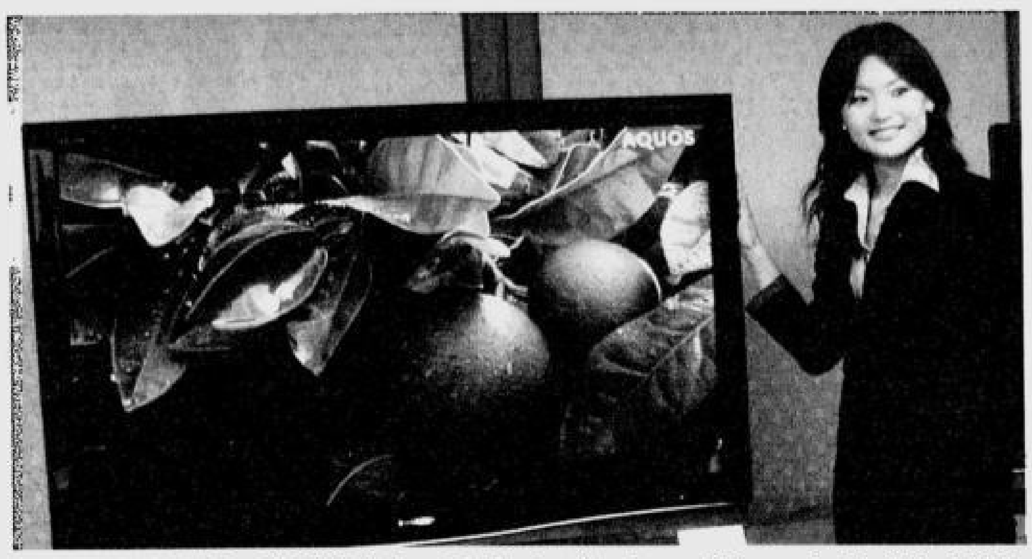
LOBBY of Sharp's Kameyama Plant where Aquos TVs are manufactured



THE ORIGINAL "Neo-Fluidic" design of the best-selling Aquos TV is seen in this 45-inch high-definition model. Another model uses Japanese artist Toshiyuki Kita's design.

Dream factory

Sharp Corp.'s Kameyama Plant in Japan's Mie Prefecture is the nursery of the world's most advanced TV sets

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

ONE OF THE BIGGEST ATtractions at this year's Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas was something most of us could only dream about: a television set so huge that it was practically an entire wall of light, sound and stunning color.

The 108-inch liquid crystal display (LCD) TV, still a prototype and not yet commercially available anywhere in the world, was developed by the pioneering Japanese company Sharp Corp., which manufactured the product under its Aquos line of high-definition LCD wide-screen TVs.

The Aquos line, first introduced in 2001, is "the engine that drives the growth of Sharp's business," says Takashi Nakagawa, the manager of Sharp's International business group. For four years now, he says, the company has posted record profits and sales due to the popularity of its flagship product.

Sharp sold six million LCD TV units worldwide in 2006, and the Aquos line itself now commands about 50 percent of the market share in Japan. Awareness of the brand hovers at around 99 percent in Sharp's mother country, with about 75 percent of surveyed populace said to be expressing a desire to buy themselves an Aquos TV.

Sharp has consistently led the electronics industry in the development of LCD technology. While it was the last major electronics manufacturer to produce mobile phones, it was the first to equip cell phones with LCD screens that could actually receive digital TV broadcasts. Imagine watching your favorite TV show on your mobile phone real-time. In Japan, Sharp's handsets with vertical LCD screens allow its users exactly this pleasure.

Such innovations vaulted Sharp's phone line to the top spot in Japan in 2005, and its LCD technology has also been adopted by Apple's iPod, Sony's Playstation and Nintendo; by Nokia, Motorola, Mitsubishi and Philips, among many others.

It was only in 1998 that Sharp announced it would change all its standard CRT TVs (picture-tube units) to LCD TV sets by 2005. But less than a decade later, it has gone further by creating high-definition TV sets in ever-larger sizes, from 32 inches to the 65-inch set that, at the moment, is its largest commercially available unit in the market.

The 108-inch prototype shown at the Las Vegas CES will have its roll-out in the United States by the end of this year, before being launched in other parts of the world.

According to Hiroshi Kusao, division general manager of Sharp's LCD digital systems division IV-audio visual systems group, their goal is to eventually replace all LCD TV units in the world with Aquos' full-spec digital high-definition variety.

In the Philippines, a 65-inch Aquos retails for about P1.3 million. The 32- and 37-inch variants sell for about P95,000 and P128,000, respectively—still a hefty price tag, but Sharp Philippines says that in December alone of last year some 300 units of both models were purchased locally.

Recognized trailblazer

The television and LCD technologies are areas where Sharp is a recognized trailblazer, so it is no wonder that it would aim to bring these two together in the Aquos.

Sharp came up with Japan's first TV set in 1953. It was the first company to mass-produce this new technological wonder to coincide with the country's first TV broadcasts.

Two decades later, in 1973, it produced the first LCD calculator—the first electronic

DREAM/ F2

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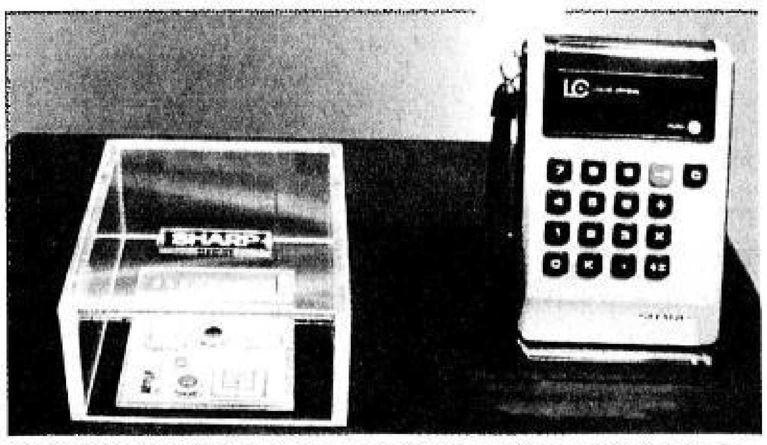
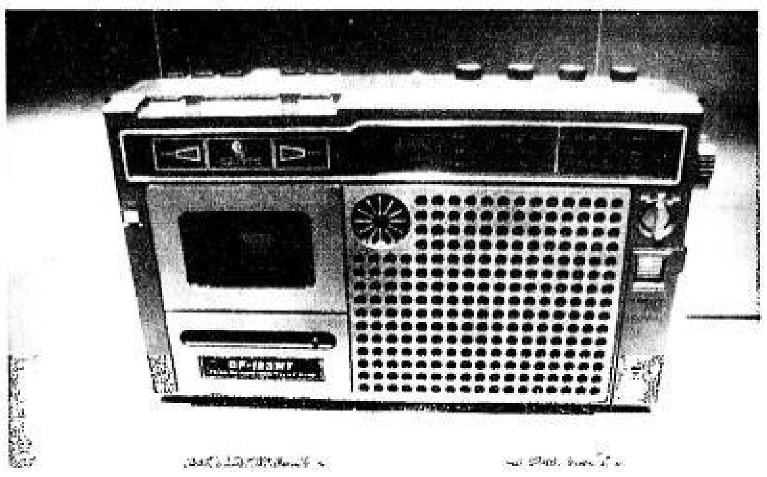
SHARP came up with Japan's first TV set in 1953 and was the first to mass-produce this new electronic marvel.



WORLD'S first calculator using a liquid crystal display (LCD) screen, introduced by Sharp in 1973 and the harbinger of the pocket calculator age



THE FIRST cassette tape recorder that could select a piece of music on a tape at the touch of a button, rolled out by Sharp in 1975

Dream factory

From page F1

device in the world to use liquid crystals on its display screen.

LCD is the only display device that can exist in all electronic media—from computer monitors and TV screens to cell phones, game consoles, PDAs, information displays, the control panels of cars, etc.

LCD TVs "have superb image quality," says Nakagawa. "They are able to display digital high-definition TV images exactly as broadcast. And they are also highly rated for their high level of environmental performance—high energy efficiency, low resource utilization and long service life." Aquos LCD TVs are said to consume 30-percent less energy compared to other similar appliances.

Advanced ways

The magic of liquid crystals has become the core of Sharp's business, and at its Kameyama Plant in Japan's Mie Prefecture, the most advanced ways of television manufacturing are integrated with Sharp's expertise in liquid-crystal manipulation to create the new-generation television experience provided by Aquos.

The plant is the first factory in the world to use eighth-generation glass substrates to create LCD screens with high-definition features.

Some 2,200 people are working at the plant, but they are hardly seen, as most operations are performed by robots. So advanced is the setup, and so pristine the environment to ensure the perfect state of the glass substrates, that the plant maintains a cleanliness threshold of four pollen grains in an area the size of a baseball stadium.

The plant is also called a "super green factory, because it has adopted cutting-edge standards relating to environment and energy use.

One-third of the plant, for example, is powered by huge solar cell panels—enough to make Kameyama one of the largest solar-power generation plants in the world (energy produced by these systems can power 1,300 homes).

It's interesting to recall that Sharp was the company that gave the world the solar-powered desktop calculator, which made its first appearance in 1974.

There are 67 partner companies in what is called the "Crystal Valley" of the Mie Prefecture that manufacture the components of Sharp's LCD TVs. This allows the plant to "integrate production of LCD TVs in a single facility—from fabricating the LCD panels to final assembly of the finished TVs," says Nakagawa.

Kameyama now produces about 30,000 glass sheets a month, and by 2008 that number is expected to triple. If cut up for 32-inch LCD TVs, these translate to around 20 million TV units.

With large parts of the world already shifting to the high-definition TV format, Sharp expects the demand for LCD TVs in 2007 alone to reach 68 million units worldwide.

That means 108-inch screens are only the beginning of a new era in TV enjoyment. Sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com

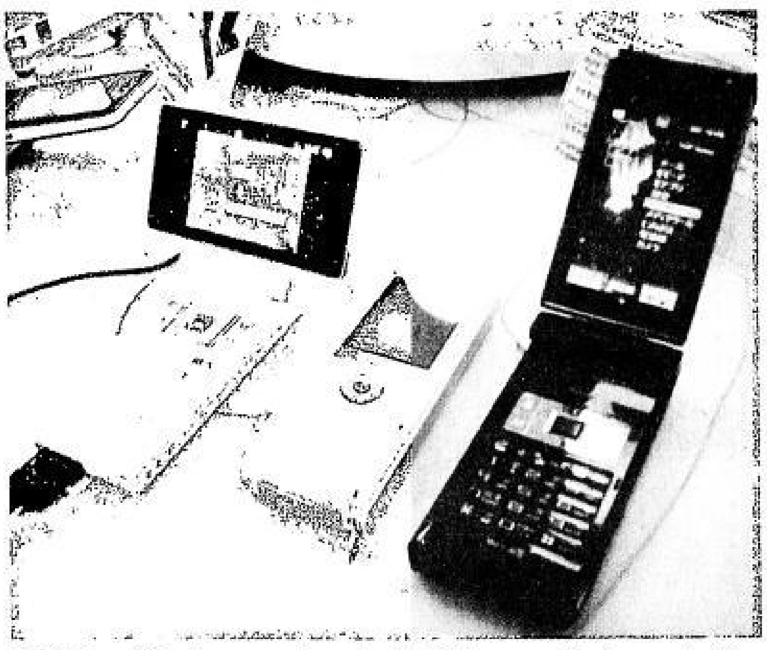
SHARP
CORPORATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP

ENTRANCE to Sharp's Corporate Research and Development Group headquarters in the Tenri Plant, which also houses the Memorial and Technology Hall

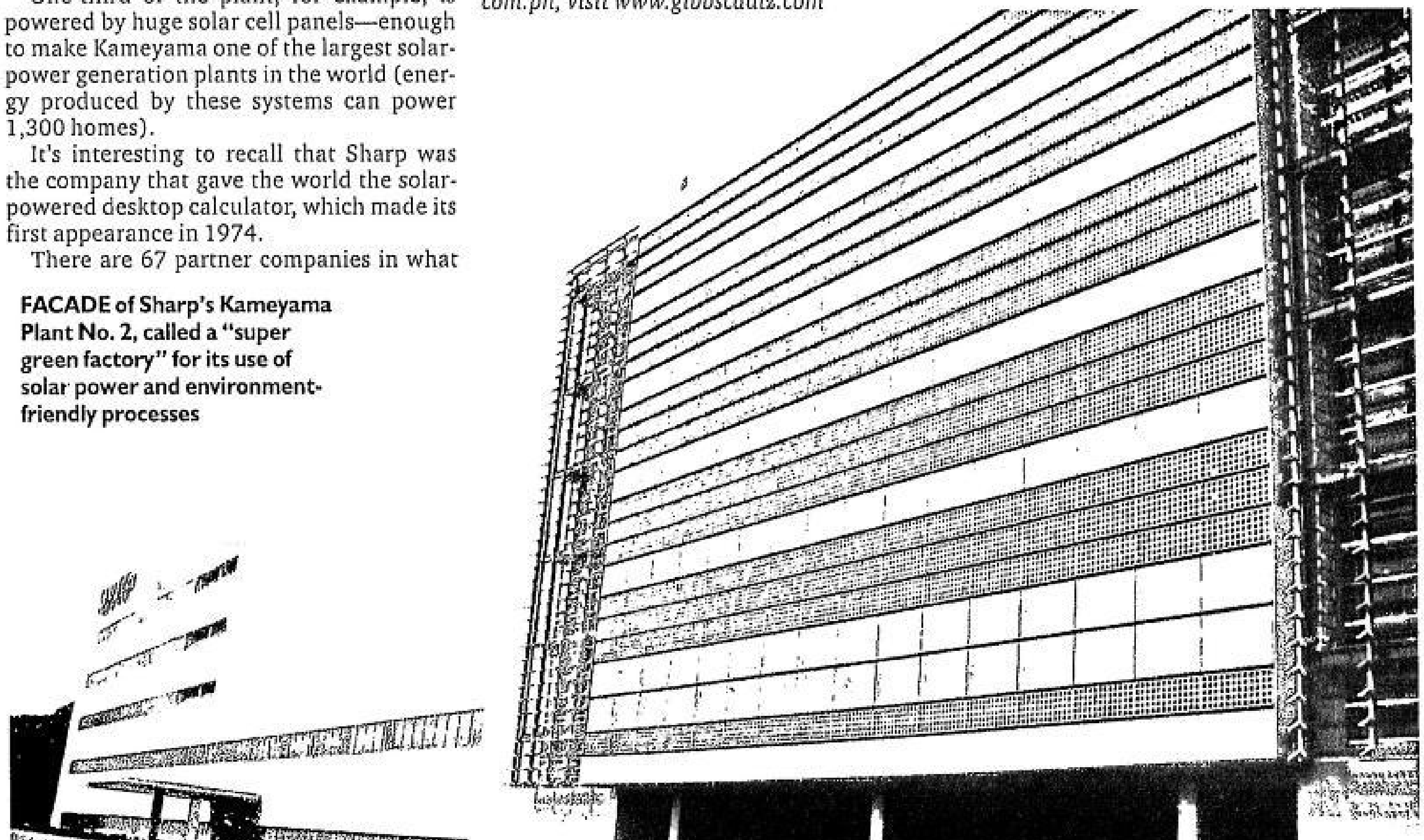
FRIENDLY staff welcomes tour visitors to the Kameyama Plant.

TAKASHI Nakagawa (right), corporate executive director and group general manager of Sharp's international business group, with an interpreter

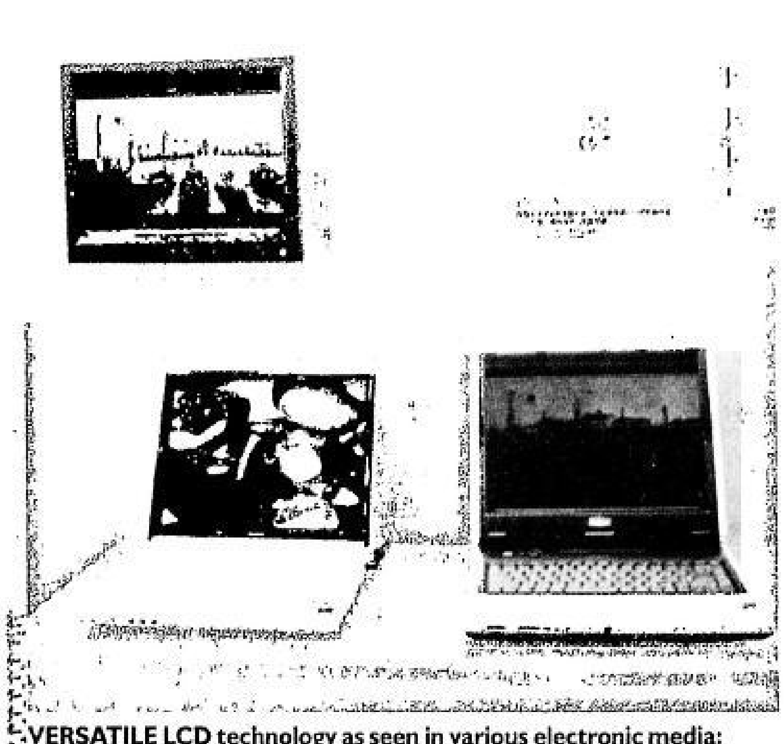
HIROSHI Kusao, division general manager of Sharp's LCD digital systems division IV-audio visual systems group



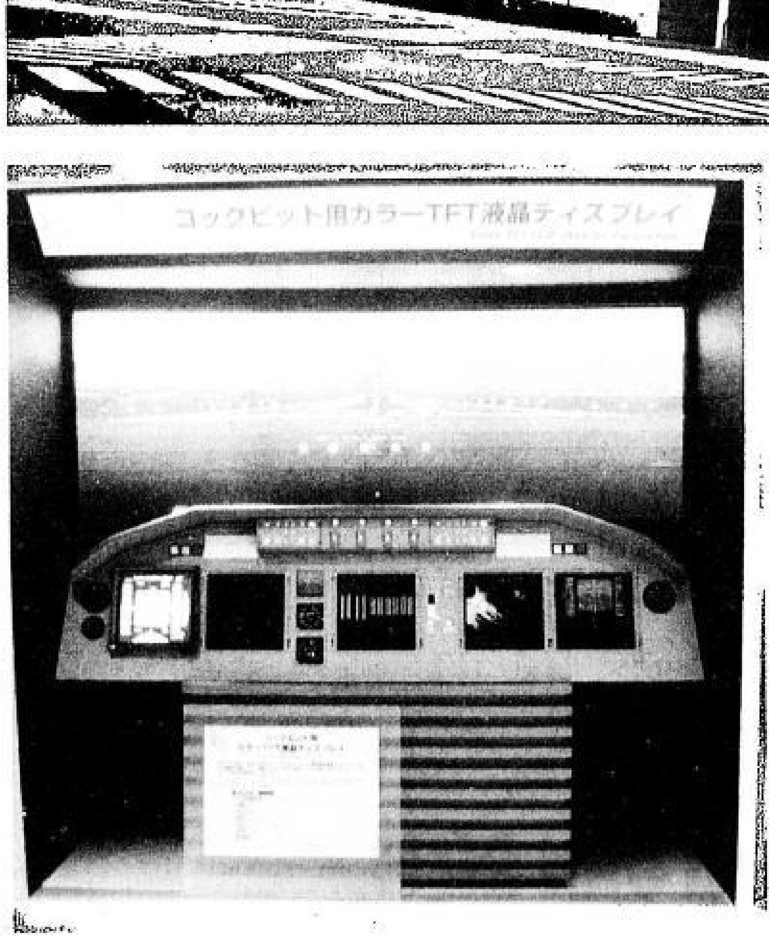
SHARP mobile phones equipped with LCD screens that can actually receive real-time digital television broadcasts

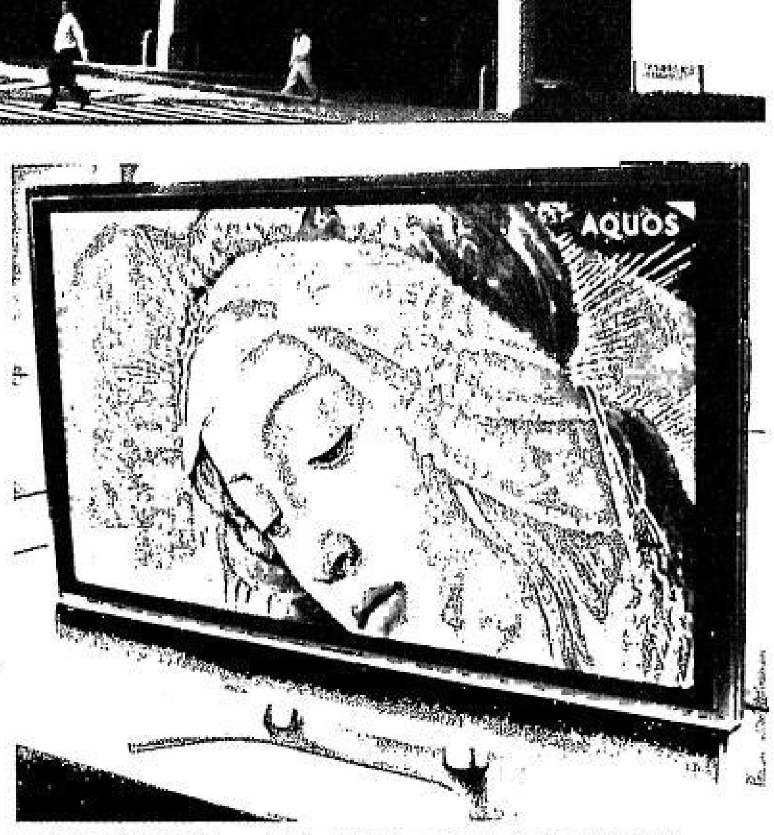


FACADE of Sharp's Kameyama Plant No. 2, called a "super green factory" for its use of solar power and environment-friendly processes



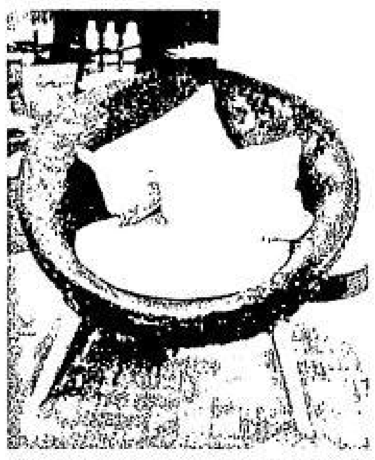
VERSATILE LCD technology as seen in various electronic media: on personal computers and information displays (above) and flight consoles (right)

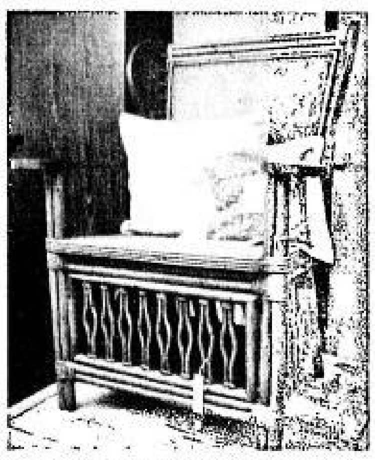




THE 65-INCH full-spec high-definition Sharp Aquos TV offers stunning color and image quality, displaying 100-percent high-definition signals at twice the resolution of conventional HD panels.

SAMURAI-INSPIRED chair with bamboo arms and legs and wicker seat

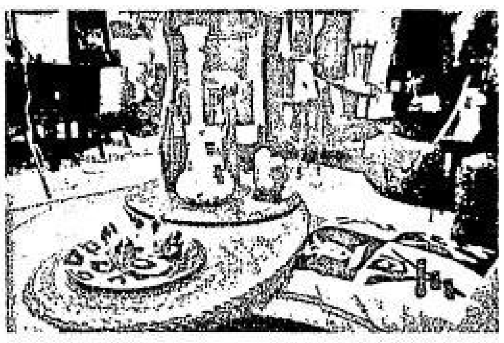

EGG nest wicker seat with metal legs


HIGH-BACK accent chair with bamboo frame and wicker seat

WICKER bench with wood top

Furniture both minimal and maximal

COCOY Cordoba in his showroom

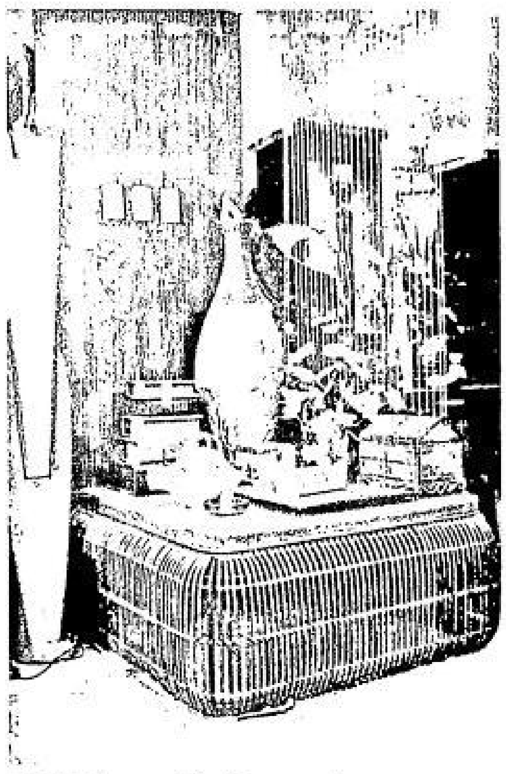

KIDNEY-SHAPED center table

INTERIOR DESIGNER Cocoy Cordoba's new line of furniture is a departure from his signature maximalist style. It consists of functional furniture pieces using local materials like woven leather, abaca, rattan, treated banana leaves, bamboo and others.

The pieces are ideal for condos with limited space as well as residences with expansive areas.

The new collection features a samurai-inspired chair done in aligned bamboo. Another chair is made from twisted abaca, leather and bamboo. The deep seat is perfect for curling up, putting one's feet up, or simply getting cozy in.

Still another design utilizes treated woven banana leaves. Framed on *kamagong* wood, the dark tones are reminiscent of the thrones used by Asian royalty.


FLOOR lamp with wicker trunk

One accent chair uses native rattan that is meshed to look like a bird's nest. Its companion side chair has a soft round cushion with changeable covers to suit a room's color scheme.

Cordoba said his personal favorite is a chair made of MDF, a type of wood that is resistant to warp and to changing temperature. With leaf carvings on its arms, the chair appears to be done in leather but is actually made of wood combined with *banig* and rattan.

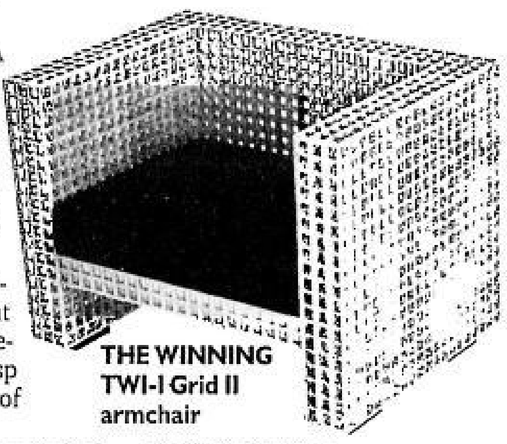
To break the monotony of the all-brown hues, Cordoba added iron elements for effect.

Cordoba continues to mix two to three materials on a single piece. He also makes use of brilliant colors like tangerine, fuchsia, basic beige, brown and black.

The House of Cordoba is located at 180 Concha Cruz Drive, B.F. Homes, Parañaque. Call 0917-8844561.

WOOD console chest with drawers

Filipino furniture design wins top honors


THE WINNING TWI-I Grid II armchair

GASP FURNITURE, A Manila-based furniture company, won top honors in product design in the recent Roscoe Awards' Occasional Seating, Residential Category.

In award ceremonies held recently at the Guggenheim Museum, New York City, Gasp won over thousands of other entries.

Its TWI-I Grid II armchair, inspired by Tahanang Walang Hagdan, a workshop for the physically handicapped, and designed by Joaquin G. Palencia, was chosen through online Internet voting.

It was also the choice of Cindy Allen, Interior Design magazine editor in chief. Allen headed a panel of five judges that included Arthur Casas, Pam Light, Nick Luzietti and Ali Tayar.

The annual Best of Year (BoY) Awards are given by Interior Design magazine to the best-designed home products of the year in 19 categories. The awarding was attended by over 800 luminaries from the architectural and design industries.

The awards are considered to be the "Oscars" of the design world.

Visual artist/designer Palencia is a three-time Katha award winner. He is the creative force behind Gasp Furniture.

Fifteen companies from six countries were short-listed for the top award in the product design category.

The TWH Grid Armchair, inspired by a trivet at Tahanang Walang Hagdan that Palencia visited after breaking his ankle in 1995, uses half-lapped joinery for strength. Smaller wood pieces are used to conserve the dwindling resource.

Tips for home makeover

EARTH+STYLE CORP. EMbarks on a home makeover program to help enhance lives and lifestyles of homeowners in its properties.

The program, which began at the Earth+Style village of Jubilation West in Biñan, Laguna, combines the expertise of real estate development experts, interior designers, landscape artists and home stylists of MyHome magazine.

The program helps new residents design their homes free of consultation charges.

It has now become a regular bimonthly column in MyHome.

For those wanting to do their own home makeover, the Earth+Style-MyHome Homemakeover Team gives the following tips:

Choose a focal point. An antique bed frame or mirror can help provide character to a home. Make it the center or anchor of your design ideas.

Segregate and match. Carefully separate and match old furniture with new pieces so they complement each other. Make your furnishing blend together seamlessly through design, style and color choices.

Design your style. A personal sense of style is always the end goal of a home makeover. Get ideas from magazines and books but make sure your character and style are reflected in the layout and color.

Color your world. A touch of color enhances the character of the home and affects the mood of its residents. Choose colors that suit you and don't be afraid to experiment with matching hues, patterns or textures.

Leave no room untouched. The *sala* and guest rooms are not the only places in your house that have to be presentable. Other rooms like the kitchen, dining room, bathrooms, and even the garage should also look appealing to guests and family.

Transform walls into personal galleries. Pictures can be transformed into personal art pieces with stylish frames, which can then be hung creatively to give life to a room.

Call 6388558 or 0918-88STYLE or visit www.earthandstyle.com.

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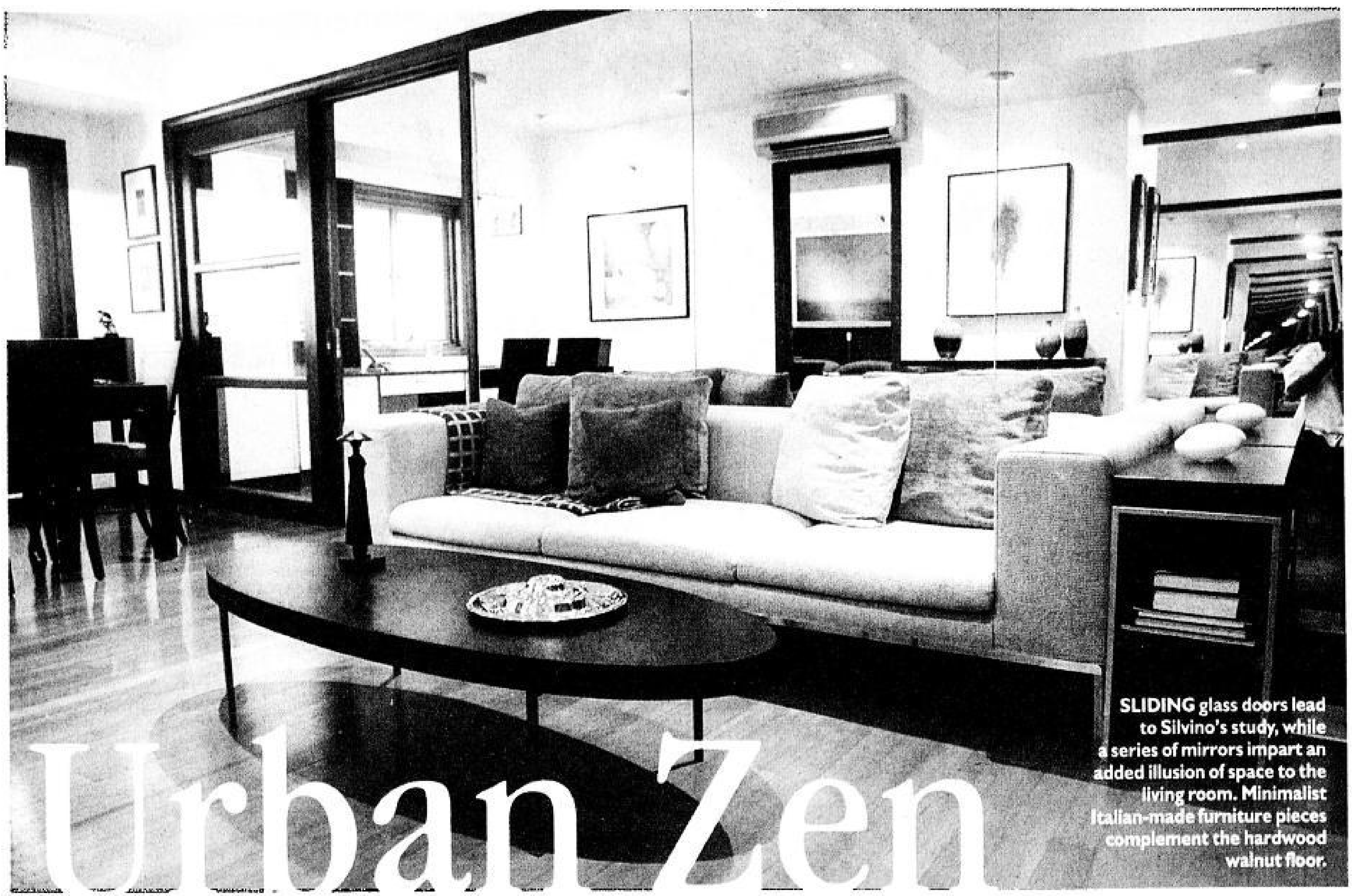
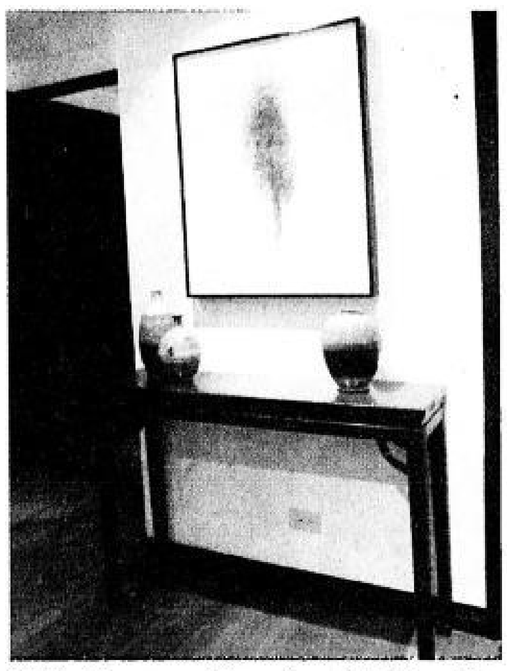


Urban Zen

SLIDING glass doors lead to Silvino's study, while a series of mirrors impart an added illusion of space to the living room. Minimalist Italian-made furniture pieces complement the hardwood walnut floor.

ABSTRACT and impressionist artwork, like the one featured on the wall, echo the unit's Zen feel.



ONE of the owner's favorite artists is Lao Lian Ben, whose work is featured in the unit's receiving area. The console table is a Chinese antique, while the jars are contemporary pieces by John Pettyjohn and his students.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

EVERY 21ST-CENTURY CORporate warrior knows that there's a thin line that divides the home from the office. Information technology executive Vic Silvino, general manager of Fritz & Macziol, has gone through great lengths not to cross that line.

After a busy day at the office in Taguig, Silvino makes it a point to leave everything behind before he drives back to his "sanctuary" in another part of the metropolis, a one-bedroom affair that teems with his vision of Zen at Eastwood Lafayette 1 in Libis, Quezon City.

Silvino acquired the unit from Megaworld Properties (the same company behind Eastwood Legrand) in 1999 even before a single post and buttress were in place. Except for a few restaurants, the then relatively undeveloped area was still an urbanite's idea of wilderness in Metro Manila.

But Silvino, who was then working for another company in Makati, saw signs of a sprawling community in the offing. He took his cue from IBM and Citibank, two multinational companies that dared to expand by building branch offices in "far-off" Libis.

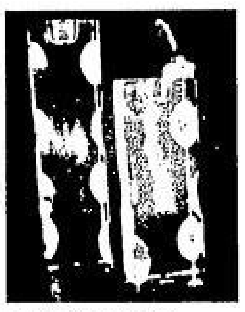
"In real estate, it's still all about location," he says. "Little did I know then that I'd be joining IBM in the near future. Thus, when I finally did two years later, the building (Lafayette 1) was already finished."

With the help of his architect, Silvino lost no time refashioning the unit to fit his lifestyle. Since the IBM building is a stone's throw away from Lafayette 1, he used to walk from his high-rise home everyday to work.

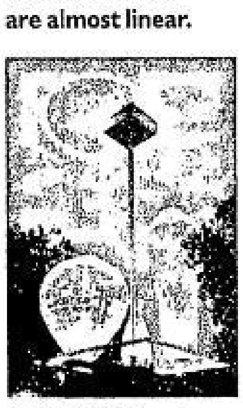
Eastwood is also perhaps one of the most dog-friendly communities in the country, which suits Silvino fine. He and best buddy Onyx, a black Scottish terrier, can enter any restaurant or establishment as they please.

"It was as if everything had fallen into place," he says.

He has left IBM sometime ago, but has decided to keep the unit for sentimental (it's his first home away from home) as well as practical reasons. After all, he has already invested a great deal of time and money refurbishing the place.



GLASS accents are almost linear.



PHILIPPE Starck chandelier

Corporate warrior Vic Silvino's home is a picture of serenity and spare elegance

Ideal backdrop

Silvino's idea of Zen includes minimalist Italian furniture and fixtures—including a stylized Philippe Starck glass chandelier with an "Old World" feel—that complement the unit's low ceiling and spare white walls.

They, in turn, form an ideal backdrop for a number of paintings by such artists as Lao Lian Ben, Baldemor, Albor, Leano and his good friend Aila de Ocampo.

One of his most cherished possessions is an impressionist painting by an unknown Chinese artist. He bought it in Shanghai several years ago during one of his business trips abroad.

"I love the play of colors and the flight of birds depicted in the painting," says Silvino.

He's also a proud owner of a mixed-media piece by Canadian painter Von Ng. The painting occupies a place of honor in his study, which, actually, is a misnomer since the room is nearly devoid of items you normally associate with a library.

No books, no files, no laptop, no swivel chair. Whatever works of fiction Silvino has are neatly compiled and hidden somewhere in his bedroom, together with his collection of music CDs and DVDs.

The movie enthusiast acquired a flat-screen TV years ago, making him probably one of the first in Metro Manila to own one.

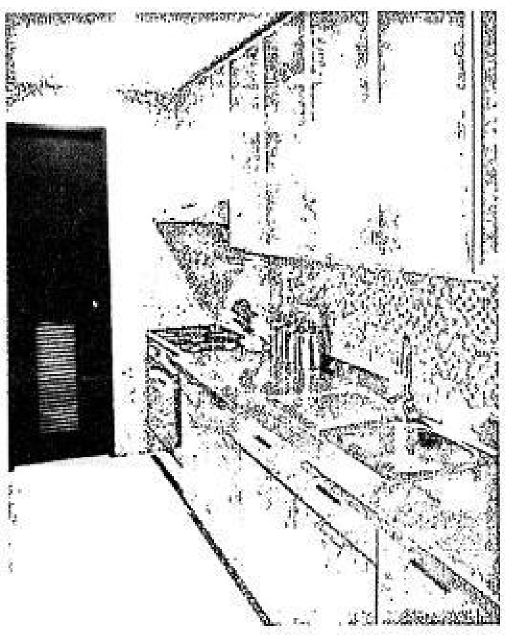
"I love the concept of a study," he says with a chuckle. "But I don't want to be inside a room that looks like a study because it reminds me of work."

Spare philosophy

If ever Silvino needs to update himself of the industry, he does everything, including surfing the Net, in the office. Once he steps inside his home, his only links to the outside world are his telephone and trusty cell phone. His spare philosophy, by the way, extends to his sleek Bang & Olufsen phone.

"I don't want to bring home work lest it becomes a habit," he says with a knowing grin.

Like the kitchen, the study, which was originally a second bedroom, was walled off from the rest of the unit. Silvino had them knocked down to allow the entire area, in his words, "to breathe."



KITCHEN features mosaic tiles and custom-built cabinets designed by George Goyena.

THIS study is devoid of the usual objects that remind Silvino of the office. Instead, it has become one virtually empty space that can accommodate friends every time he hosts one of his small parties.

"That's the best thing about living in a condo," he swears. "Since you don't have much space, you restrain yourself from buying all sorts of things, including clothes."

In place of walls, he had huge glass sliding doors built to segregate the study from the living room. To break the monotony, he replaced plain white tiles that make up the kitchen's walls with sea-colored mosaic tiles. A similar look and color scheme are also evident in the bathroom, which he equipped with useful and practical dimmers and fixtures from Dexterton.

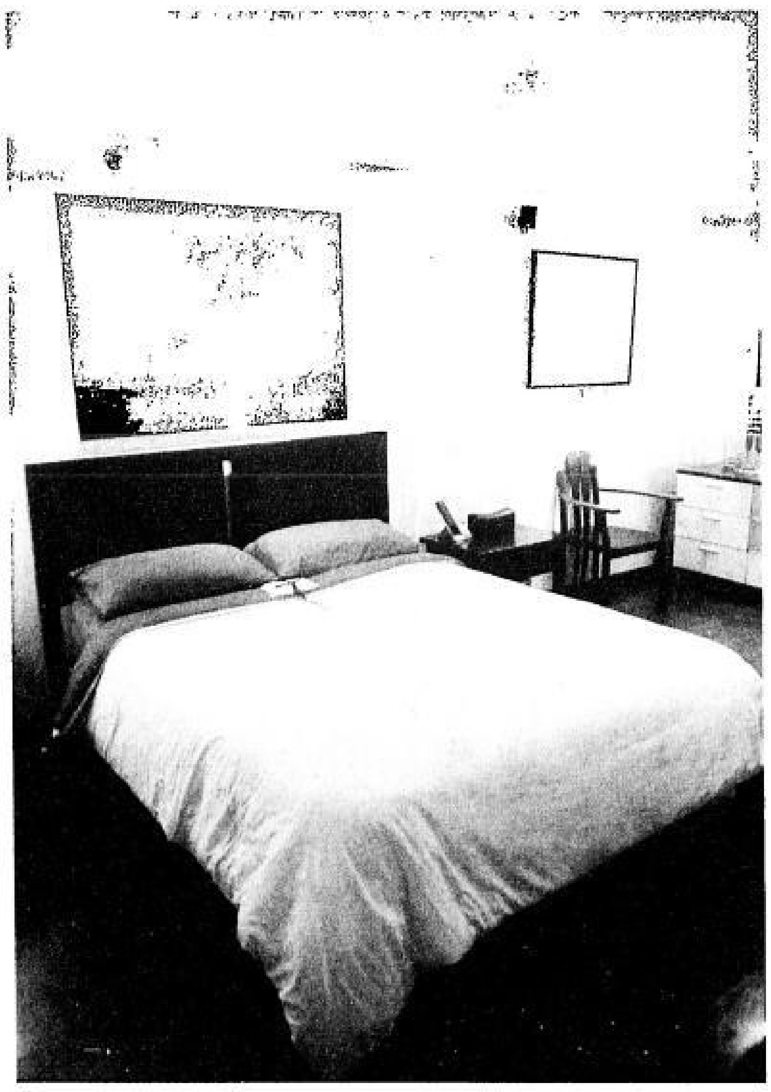
"Apart from the bathroom," says Silvino, "I paid special attention to the kitchen. I wanted one that suits my lifestyle because I love to cook and entertain."

Thus, the unit's built-in kitchen cabinets had to go in favor of custom-built shelves with opaque sliding doors by cabinet designer George Goyena. The laminated flooring also gave way to engineered hardwood in a walnut finish.

He also did away with heavy drapes. Instead, he had the huge picture window in the study framed like a painting to allow the breathtaking view of outside—which includes the distant mountains of Rizal—in.

"My home is my refuge," he says. "It gives me a feeling of peace and comfort I don't normally experience elsewhere. At the same time, it's a happy place where I can be alone but not lonely."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



THE OWNER'S private "hotel" room features an oil painting by Leano that captures the horizon.

SILVINO regularly watches his favorite films on this flat-screen TV.

SILVINO'S dining area, site of many intimate dinners he regularly hosts for good friends. He loves to cook all sorts of pasta dishes.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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Pops wants sons to enjoy being single

By Nini Valera

POPS FERNANDEZ WANTS TO SEE ROBIN AND Ram, her two sons by Martin Nievera, enjoy the single life first and be on their own before they get married.

"They should learn from what happened to us," she told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday, referring to her failed marriage. "I want them to experience life on their own."

Robin, 20, is majoring in music production at St. Benilde's. Ram, 17, is in high school.

"It's OK being a single mom," said Pops. "God has been good to me. I've never been this busy. I'm OK."

Martin, who has moved to the US to pursue his American dream, had a baby by girlfriend Katrina Ojeda last year.

Pops admitted that she cried when she learned, "because I was the last to know."

She explained: "It was like death. A part of me died. The baby was a continuation of my pain. There will always be a part of me that loves Martin."

She said her sons had only seen pictures of the baby, who was named Santino.

"They may [feel differently] when they see the baby," she said. "But [the idea of half-siblings] is not new to them. I have half brothers and sisters. So does Martin. [And] for as long as Martin and I are happy, they're also happy."

POPS/ G2

POPS FERNANDEZ

Film industry summit set

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Major talking point: Abolition of local amusement taxes

THE SCREENING AND EXECutive committees of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) met on Tuesday to discuss a summit for stakeholders.

Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA, which spearheads the annual event), said a summit would allow a discussion of all issues confronting the festival in particular, and the entire movie industry in general.

Fernando said the summit would be the first event in the next MMFF calendar.

Ric Camaligan, MMFF executive committee member, said he met earlier with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who also saw the benefit of such a gathering.

Camaligan added that the summit was being organized through Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and Arts.

Different concerns

At a preliminary meeting on Friday in Quezon City, the summit was set on March 16 at the Manila Hotel. The different concerns were also identified—piracy, taxation, the festival proper, and welfare programs.

Fernando said the abolition of amusement taxes at the local government level should be a major talking point. "It could be a big problem," he said, "since MMFF funds come from the amusement taxes collected during the two-week festival."

A new tax scheme was needed, he said. "The MMFF also needs to work double time to reach target earnings (P .5 billion), especially since Quezon City stopped collecting amusement taxes early this year."

Camaligan pointed out that the last festival tapped only 4 million moviegoers, when the potential market was 8 million. "We can do so much more," he said.

In the Tuesday meeting, it was announced that the 2006 MMFF grossed P247,975,515.20 in Metro Manila and P167,848,809.50 in the provinces—a total of P415,824,324.70 nationwide.

Top slot went to Star Cinema's "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," which posted P142,013,416.95. OctoArts' "Enteng Kabisote 3" was in second place, with P128,783,719.25.

It was also announced that the launch of MMFF 2007 is set next month at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club.

Kodak Oscar Streak Continues; All Best Picture Winners Produced On Kodak Film for 79th Straight Year

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7 -- Whichever film prevails in the Best Picture category at the 2007 Academy Awards, Eastman Kodak Company will keep a remarkable streak alive. For 79 consecutive years, tracing back to the first Oscar presentations in 1928, the Best Picture winners have all been produced on Kodak motion picture film. That tradition continues in 2007, as all five features vying for an Academy Award in the Best Picture category were produced on Kodak film. The nominees are BABEL, THE DEPARTED, LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA, LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE and THE QUEEN.

All of the films nominated for the 2007 Oscar for Achievement in Cinematography were also produced on Kodak film. The nominees are Vilmos Zsigmond, ASC for THE BLACK DAHLIA; Emmanuel Lubezki, ASC, AMC for CHILDREN OF MEN; Dick Pope, BSC for THE ILLUSIONIST; Guillermo Navarro, ASC, AMC for PAN'S LABYRINTH; and Wally Pfister, ASC for THE PRESTIGE.

"From the beginning of the industry, Kodak has recognized that cinema is a form of artistic expression," said Mary Jane Hellyar, President of Entertainment Imaging, and Senior Vice President, Eastman Kodak Company. "It is tremendously gratifying that so many award-winning artists continue to tell their stories using KODAK film. We congratulate all of the 2007 nominees for their extraordinary achievements and look forward to many more years of partnering with the motion picture industry in the creation of all its exciting and compelling work."

Kodak has served as a driving force in filmmaking science and technology since the dawn of the motion picture industry. The company has earned an impressive eight Academy Awards for Scientific and Technical excellence.

About Eastman Kodak Company

Kodak is the world's foremost imaging innovator. With sales of $13.3 billion in 2006, the company is committed to a digitally oriented growth strategy focused on helping people better use meaningful images and information in their life and work. Consumers use Kodak's system of digital and traditional products and services to take, print and share their pictures anytime, anywhere; Businesses effectively communicate with customers worldwide using Kodak solutions for prepress, conventional and digital printing and document imaging; Creative Professionals rely on Kodak technology to uniquely tell their story through moving or still images; and leading Healthcare organizations rely on Kodak's innovative products, services and customized workflow solutions to help improve patient care and maximize efficiency and information sharing within and across their enterprise.

More information about Kodak (NYSE: EK) is available at www.kodak.com.

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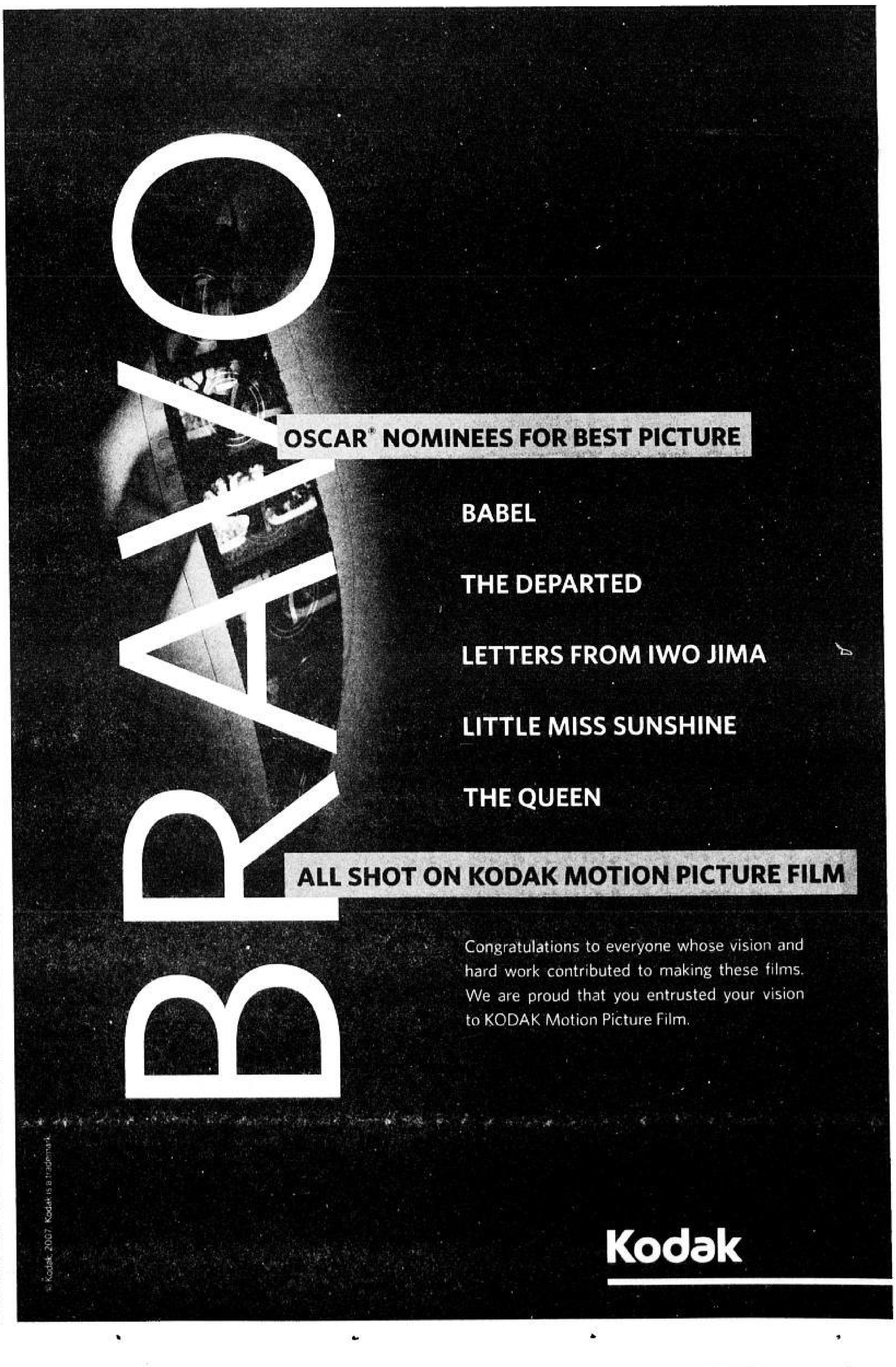

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2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 (DOLBY) THE NUMBER 23

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 GHOST RIDER
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
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4 EPIC MOVIE

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 THE PROMISE
4 DOLBY DIGITAL EQ GHOST RIDER
5 NUMBER 23

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☆2 THE MESSENGERS
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2 (SDDS) GHOST RIDER
3 (DTS) APOCALYPTO
4 GOLD (DTS) EPIC MOVIE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) NUMBER 23
6 GOLD (DOLBY) BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
8 MUSIC & LYRICS
9 THE MESSENGERS
10 THE PROMISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
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1 (DOLBY) THE PROMISE
2 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
3 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 NUMBER 23

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2 HANNIBAL RISING
3 TROIKA
4 CODNAME CLEANER

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2 GHOST RIDER
3 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 GHOST RIDER
2 APOCALYPTO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EQ) CODNAME CLEANER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 (DTS EQ) THE PROMISE
4 BABEL

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

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2 DÉJÀ VU

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3 (DOLBY) THE NUMBER 23
4 (DOLBY) BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

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3 (DOLBY) GHOST RIDER
4

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1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

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(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

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2 APOCALYPTO

Lianas Cinema
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1 (DOLBY) NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
3 TROIKA
4 (DTS) HANNIBAL RISING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) EPIC MOVIE
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3 (DTS) THE PROMISE
4 LITTLE CHILDREN
5 GHOST RIDER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD -2
2 APOCALYPTO
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE PROMISE

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(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 ENTENG KABISOTE
2 HANNIBAL RISING

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1 ASK THE DUST • THX
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

2 GHOST RIDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 indieSine: IMAHE Nasyon
1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45

4 EPIC MOVIE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

6 Reserved for VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

7 TROIKA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 MUSIC and LYRICS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

9 THE NUMBER 23
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

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2 THE MESSENGERS 12:10 1:50 2:30
MUSIC and LYRICS 5:10 7:40 10:00

3 THE NUMBER 23
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:15 10:00

4 ASK THE DUST
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 EPIC MOVIE
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:15 10:00

6 GHOST RIDER
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 THE PROMISE
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

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Ticket Price: P100 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE NUMBER 23
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

2 GHOST RIDER
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

3 ROME and JULIET
12:30 3:10 6:00 9:00

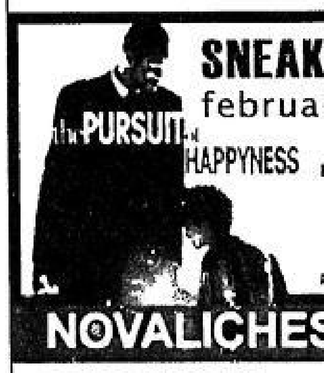
4 THE PROMISE
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

5 THE MESSENGERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

7 EPIC MOVIE
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 THE FOUNTAIN 12:30 2:25
MUSIC and LYRICS 4:30 6:50 9:00



SNEAK PREVIEWS
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pioneer • imus
dasmariñas

MTRCB Rating: G
Regular Showing March 07

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2 EPIC MOVIE
3 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
4 TROIKA
5 THE PROMISE

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1 EPIC MOVIE
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 8:40

2 GHOST RIDER
1:30 3:55 6:20 8:40

3 THE NUMBER 23
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

4 BRIDGE of TERABITHIA
12:05 2:10 4:15 6:20 8:25

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4 THE MESSENGERS
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2 THE PROMISE
3 BABEL
4 THE CLEANER

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3 TROIKA
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5 BABEL
6 GHOST RIDER

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2 APOCALYPTO
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4 THE PROMISE
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6 THE HOLIDAY

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2 THE PROMISE
3 The CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER
4 APOCALYPTO
5 THE MESSENGERS
6 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES

DREW Barrymore and Hugh Grant in "Music and Lyrics"

TERROR BEGINS FEBRUARY 28

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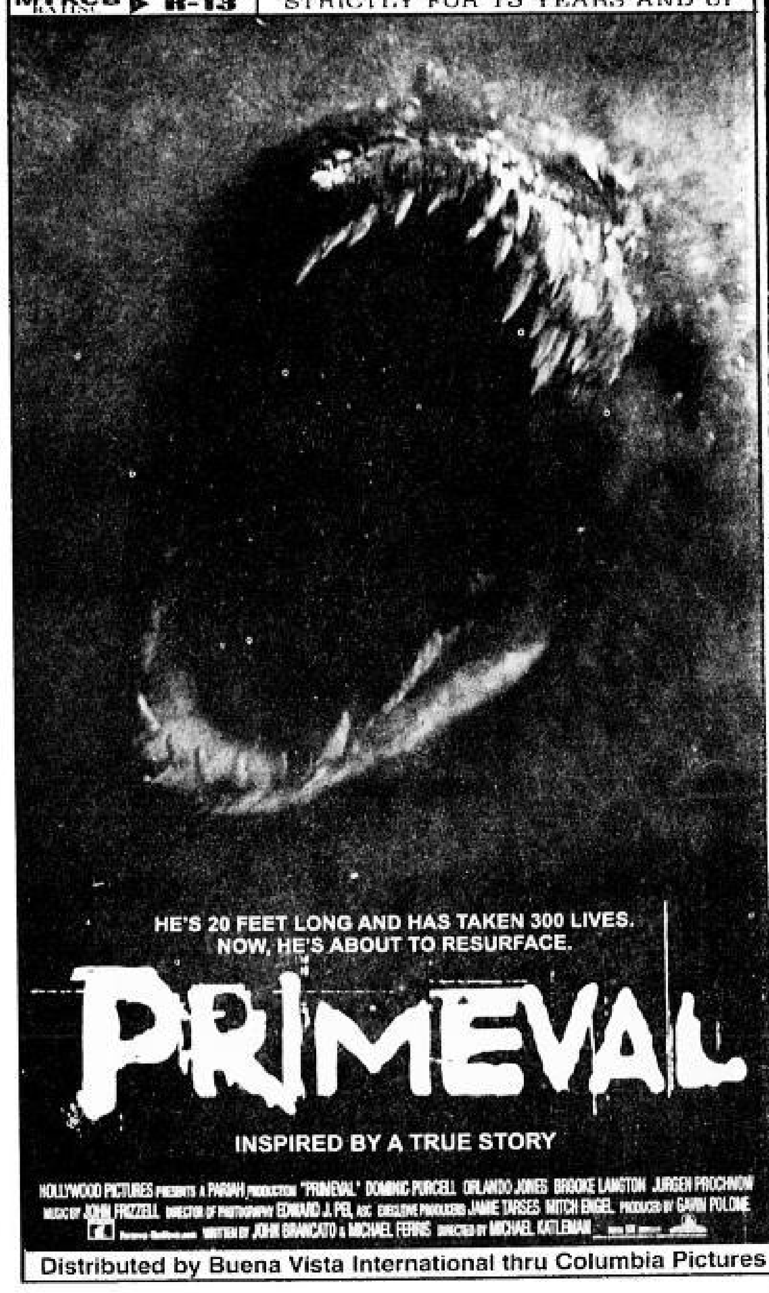
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WRITTEN BY JOHN BRANCATO & MICHAEL FERRIS DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KATLEMAN

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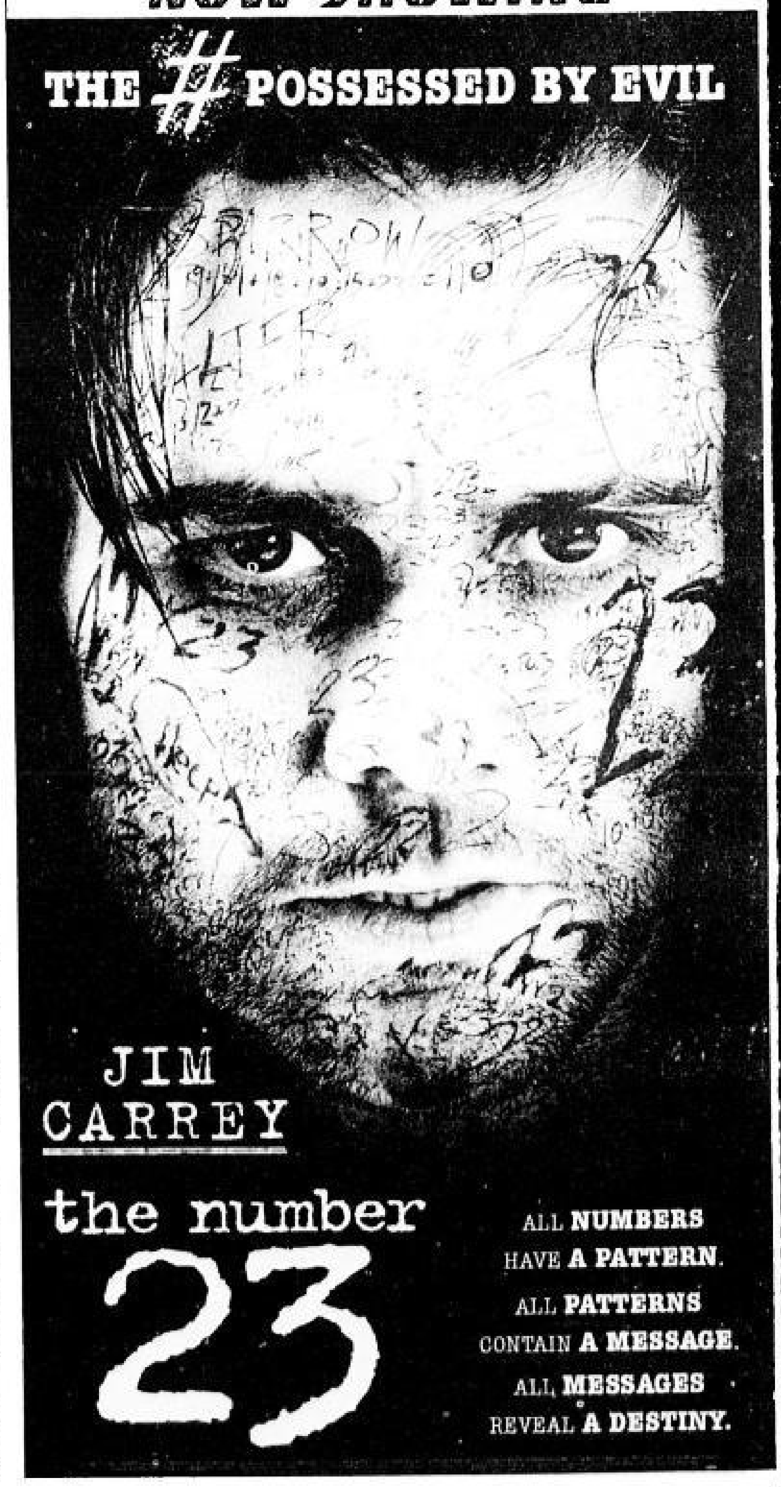
THE # POSSESSED BY EVIL
JIM CARREY
the number 23
ALL NUMBERS HAVE A PATTERN.
ALL PATTERNS CONTAIN A MESSAGE.
ALL MESSAGES REVEAL A DESTINY.

‘Music and Lyrics’: Romance and rebirth, post-15 minutes

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

FANS OF ’80s POP MUSIC WILL wax nostalgic when they watch “Music and Lyrics,” a romantic comedy that shows there’s life for those fortunate or capable enough to adapt after their precious 15 minutes in the limelight have expired. The film smartly satirizes the present show biz scene, and the constant struggle to extend one’s life span beyond that of flavors-of-the-month and wannabes. Rom-com staples Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore team up, lending it a working chemistry and a characteristically goofy dynamic.

Unusual tale

Director-screenwriter Marc Lawrence, who previously worked on the Sandra Bullock starrer “Two Weeks Notice,” whips up an unusual but very contemporary fairy tale. An ex-member of the ’80s group Pop, Alex Fletcher (Grant), tries to make a comeback by writing a song for sexy young superstar Cora (Haley Bennett), who’s “bigger than Britney and Christina” combined. Alex can create and arrange melodies but writing good lyrics isn’t his strong suit. He discovers a songwriting partner in his substitute “plant-sitter” Sophie (Barrymore), a somewhat scatterbrained and talkative hypochondriac.

The amateur lyricist proves to be a natural wordsmith, however, easily winning over the has-been musician. “Music and Lyrics” speaks of finding common ground despite the distracting baggage, as both characters have complicated pasts.

As they try to perfect their collaboration, Alex and Sophie discover that they both have serious weaknesses, character-wise.

The mush isn’t overdone, and the dialogue smoothly flows with lively retorts and mostly subdued delivery. The romance-disagreement-happy ending formula is applied, but it doesn’t spiral out of control.

The lovebirds are aided by the presence of unique supporting characters. There’s Kristen Johnston, from the TV series “Third Rock from the Sun.” She plays Sophie’s supportive sister Rhonda, an aggressive fan of Alex and his old group, and is the movie’s most effective comic relief character. Bennett as the pop idol Cora, meanwhile, conveys a necessary eccentricity. The character’s packaged as the sensual and spiritual oddity, a beloved young woman who’s secretly insecure of Latina songstress Shakira’s hip-shaking moves.

Jokes that involve pop music icons REO Speedwagon, Billy Idol, Debbie Gibson, Tiffany, etc., will be appreciated by those familiar with the ’80s.

Memorable

Grant, as Alex, the lesser-known fraction of the Wham-like act Pop, is able to create a memorable, celebrity-oriented character that’s an interesting parallel to that of his recent “American Dreamz” role. Barrymore is expectedly sweet, but has more depth than usual as the newbie lyricist and the subject of an author ex-boyfriend’s revealing book.

But Alex and Sophie’s work doesn’t sound as great as it’s supposed to be. It’s an overly sappy and common-sounding post-breakup song! But, well, those characteristics probably make it a potential hit, aside from the fact that the chart-climbing “pop princess” is singing it. Oh, well. But aside from its exploration of post-fame foibles and muse-wringing, “Music and Lyrics” has a decent enough relationship story, and it’s still about two people who end up making good music together, but in a different sense.

Pops wants sons . . .

From page G1

Baby thoughts

Pops confessed that she had thought of having a third baby during the three years that she tried to keep Martin.

“I thought it would save our marriage,” she admitted. “But it would have been for the wrong reasons. It would have made Martin feel trapped all over again. Right now I’m happy to be by myself. I’ve learned to love myself.”

Pops is involved with younger man Jomari Yllana.

Happy with Jom

“We’re happy,” she said of her relationship with Jom. “We’ve been through the same things in life. There’s no rush for us to settle down. I don’t plan on having another child just because Martin [did]. I’m smart enough not to do that. I have to be ready and prepared for it, but I’m not.”

She continued: “I’m not ready to get married again. I’d rather work and concentrate on my career, and enjoy my sons.”

Her new album, “Silver,” released by Universal Records has yet to turn gold. “But it’s getting there,” said Pops.

She recently signed an endorsement deal with a skin care clinic, and is off to the US and Canada soon for a series of concerts.

Apart from her work, Pop said, laughing, “I’m really boring.”

DID YOU KNOW...

Oscar count starts

LOS ANGELES—AFTER WEEKS OF RELENTLESS OSCAR CAMPAIGN ADS, TALK-SHOW interviews and red-carpet events, members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences have made up their minds. The next step is to count their votes. Polling in this year’s Oscar race drew to a close on Tuesday as the final ballots poured in, and a team of accountants prepared to tabulate the results behind closed doors at an undisclosed location.

Reuters

RUSTOM PADILLA WENDELL RAMOS JEAN GARCIA TIRSO CRUZ III GISELLE SANCHEZ
SHAINA MAGDAYAO AND RAYVER CRUZ
HAPPY HEARTS
A FILM BY JOEL C. LAMANGAN, DGPI
ALLAN PAULE ALWYN UYTINGCO LAUREN NOVERO JILL YULO PRETTY TRIZSA MENGGIE COBARRUBIAS TOM OLIVAR JOSIE TAGLE TONI CARI
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CATCH THE STARS OF HAPPY HEARTS ON FEB. 25 AT SM VALENZUELA, 5PM • MARCH 2 AT SM BICUTAN, 5PM
PREMIERE NIGHT ON MARCH 11 AT SM MEGAMALL, 7PM

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	4 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND	5 THE MESSENGERS	6 EPIC MOVIE	7 NUMBER 23
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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX NUMBER 23 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EPIC MOVIE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX NUMBER 23 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA		
	3 EPIC MOVIE	4 MUSIC & LYRICS	5 GHOST RIDER	
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE PROMISE	2 BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA		
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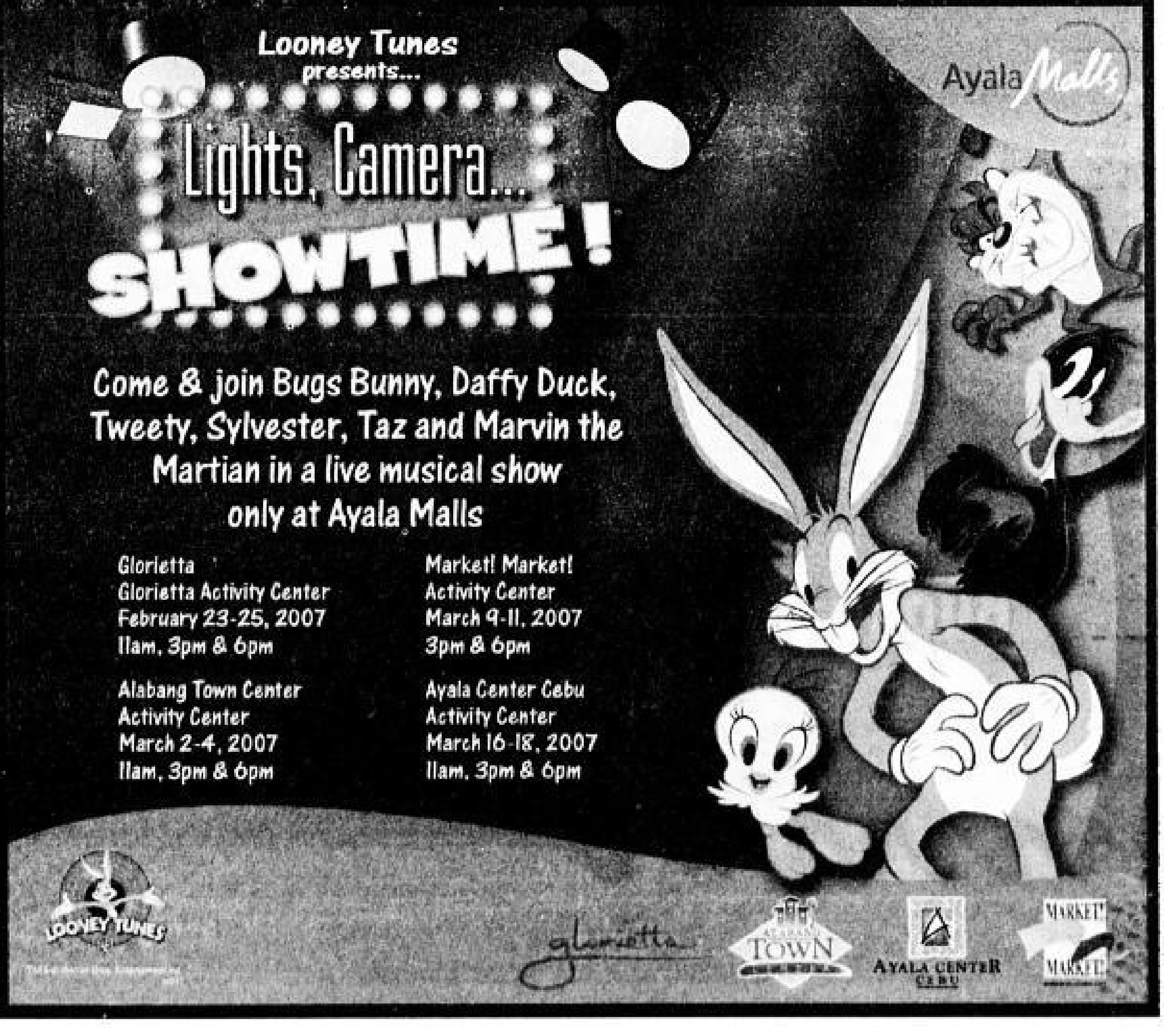

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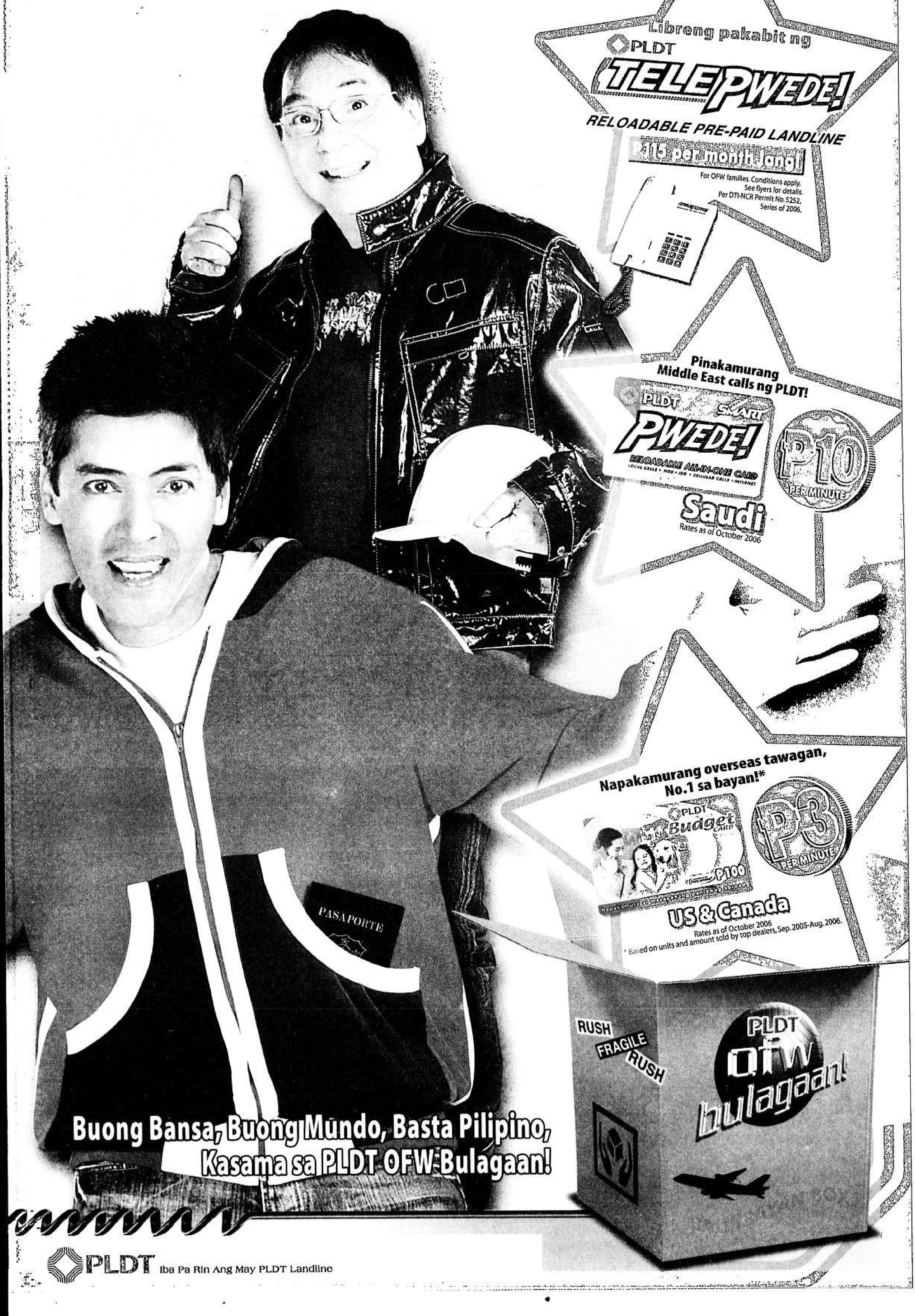
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Who's coming to the Oscars?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—LAST THURSDAY EVENING, Oscar nominees **Helen Mirren** and **Peter O'Toole**, cocktail drinks in hand, had a chance to enjoy "the moment" before the Big Day today, Sunday.

The occasion was Miramax Films' celebration of its Academy nominees from the films "The Queen" and "Venus" at The Terrace of the chic Sunset Tower Hotel. Helen, credited for helping bring "sexy" back, was definitely not looking like a 61-year-old. The thespian, considered a shoo-in for Best Actress, proves it in an alluring cover photo in the current issue of Los Angeles magazine. My wife Janet admired the actress' transparent, clear-as-crystal high-heeled shoes.

We got to talk again about the actress' brother, Peter Mirren, who lived in the Philippines for 20 years until he passed away. "He adored the Philippines," Helen told us as she stirred her drink, a red-colored concoction. She added that her brother, an engineer, traveled all over the world but decided to settle in the Philippines. According to Helen, when Peter's first marriage to a Filipina ended, he married another Filipina.

TONY Blair meets Venus. Michael Sheen, who played Britain's Prime Minister in "The Queen," and Jodie Whittaker, who was Venus to Peter O'Toole's character in "Venus"

Jaded crowd

When we asked the actress' husband, director **Taylor Hackford**, if the couple was already tired from this hectic awards season, he said that they were relishing every moment so they didn't mind the crazy schedule. Taylor personally experienced the same frenzy when his film, "Ray," dominated the awards season a few years ago.

The jaded cocktail crowd lost its nonchalance when Peter O'Toole entered the room. After all, this was the actor who played Lawrence of Arabia and other memorable figures on the screen. The legendary actor looked frail but he mingled and said jokes. When he smiled, those famous blue eyes did remind one of his great character from **David Lean**'s 1962 epic masterpiece.

Peter gallantly stood up when **Jodie Whittaker**, his "Venus" in the film of the same title, came up to say hi. He plays a man who is 50 years older than Jodie's character—but they unexpectedly blossom in each other's company.

Michael Sheen, who matched Helen's brilliance in "The Queen" as Britain's Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, looked hip with his beard, longish hair and modern-cut suit. Jodie introduced a guy (must be her boyfriend) to Michael.

Awards forecast

Aside from Helen, also predicted by Oscar experts to win are:

Forest Whitaker (Best Actor, "The Last King of Scotland"); but Peter, a sentimental favorite, may pull a surprise.

Jennifer Hudson (Best Supporting Actress, "Dreamgirls")

Eddie Murphy (Best Supporting Actor, "Dreamgirls"); although another veteran, **Alan Arkin** (the grandpa in "Little Miss Sunshine"), may ruin Eddie's night.

Martin Scorsese (Best Director, "The Departed"—finally, the master filmmaker should get a long overdue recognition from the Academy.

The suspense will be when the envelope is opened for the Best Picture category. Earlier, the buzz was for "Little Miss Sunshine" but now "Oscarlogists" are saying that "Babel" and "The Departed" have a fighting chance for the evening's biggest plum.

Among this year's Oscar presenters are **Tom Cruise** and his two ex-lovers, **Nicole Kidman** and **Penélope Cruz.** Will the three bump into each other? We know that Penélope is on speaking terms with Tom—she was one of the first to see Suri, his baby with wife **Katie Holmes**. The Spanish actress, a Best Actress nominee for "Volver," declared that Suri was among the most beautiful babies she has seen.

The other presenters include **Jodie Foster, Ben Affleck, Jessica Biel, Jack Black, Cate Blanchett, Abigail Breslin, Steve Carell, George Clooney, Daniel Craig, Cameron Diaz, Kirsten Dunst, Will Ferrell, Eva Green,** Tom Hanks, Anne Hathaway, Hugh Jackman, Diane Keaton, Queen Latifah, Jennifer Lopez, Tobey Maguire, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith, John Travolta, Rachel **Weisz, Kate Winslet** and **Reese Witherspoon.**

Of the show's musical performers, wouldn't it be an electrifying moment if Jennifer Hudson sings her show-stopping aria from "Dreamgirls," "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going"? But no, Hudson will sing "Love You I Do" (music by **Henry Krieger** and lyrics by **Siedah Garrett**), one of the three nominees for Best Theme Song from "Dreamgirls."

Showstopper

But guess what? **Jennifer Holliday**, who played Effie in the original Broadway production of "Dreamgirls" and memorably performed "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" to critical acclaim and a Tony Award triumph, will sing that showstopper during E! Entertainment Television's "Countdown to the Red Carpet: The 2007 Academy Awards" before the awards telecast. Holliday, who is reportedly not happy that she is being left out in the current hoopla over Hudson, will reprise her role in a new stage production of "Dreamgirls." Will the two Jennifers finally meet on the red carpet? *Abangan*.

The other nominated "Dreamgirls" songs are "Listen" (music by Krieger and **Scott Cutler**, lyrics by **Anne Preven**), to be performed by **Beyonce**, and "Patience" (music by Krieger and lyrics by **Willie Reale**), to be sung by **Anika Noni Rose, Keith Robinson** and their "Dreamgirls" cast mates.

Will the three "Dreamgirls" songs cancel each other out and thus boost the chances of the remaining two nominees? "I Need to Wake Up," from Al Gore's hit documentary feature "An Inconvenient Truth," will be crooned by **Melissa Etheridge**, who also wrote the music and lyrics.

Randy Newman will perform his nominated song "Our Town" from the animated feature "Cars" with singer-guitarist **James Taylor.** Newman wrote both the music and lyrics for "Our Town" and also composed the film's

WHO'S / H4

WILL they win? Peter O'Toole and Helen Mirren at Miramax Films' celebration of its nominees from "The Queen" and "Venus"

PHOTOS BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

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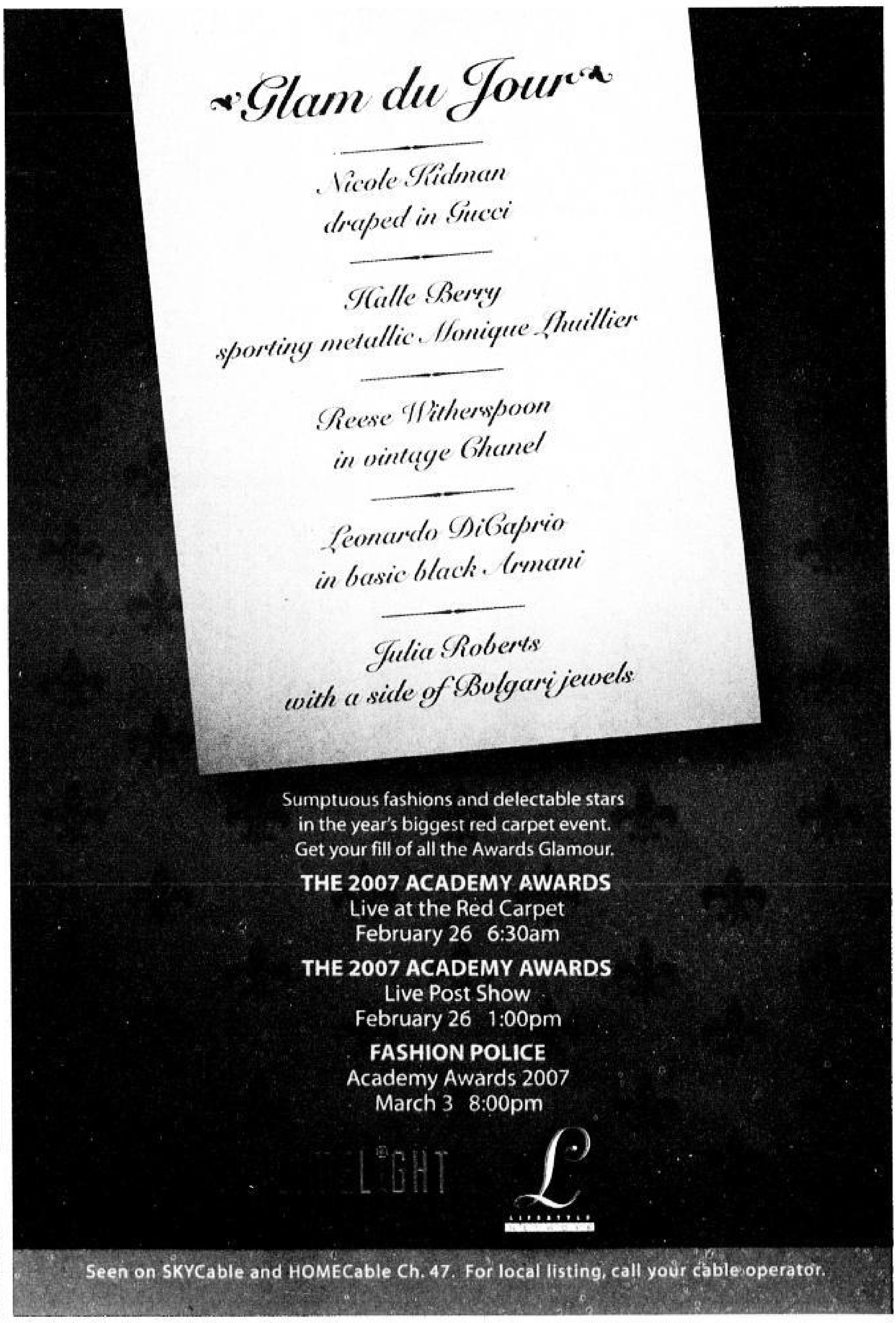

Glam du Jour

Nicole Kidman
draped in Gucci

Halle Berry
sporting metallic Monique Lhuillier

Reese Witherspoon
in vintage Chanel

Leonardo DiCaprio
in basic black Armani

Julia Roberts
with a side of Bolgari jewels

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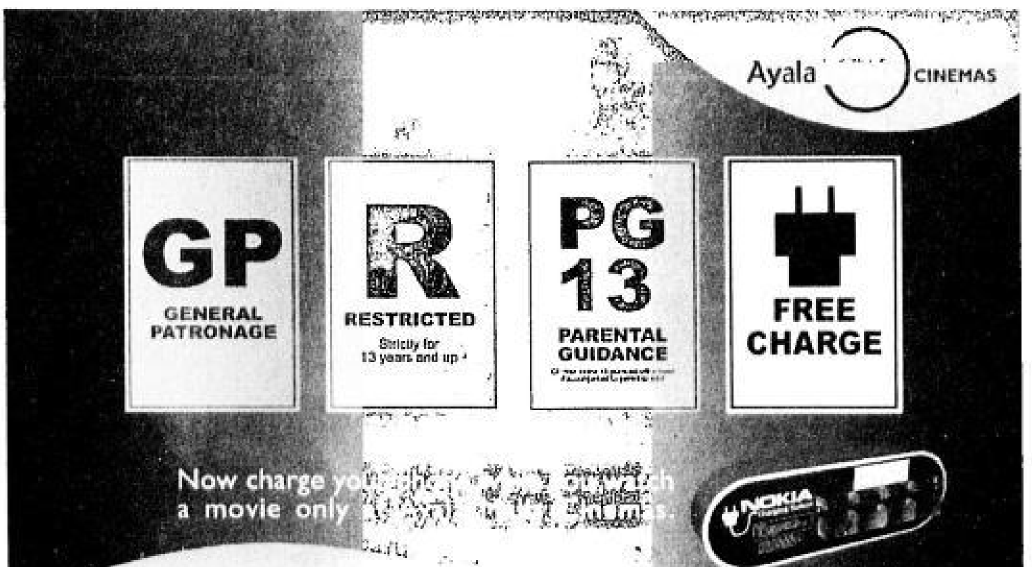

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Show must go on for 'Lupin'

By Nini Valera

THE SHOW MUST GO ON for "Lupin," GMA 7's action-adventure series currently in production. Losing one of the lead actors to politics has not derailed schedules, according to production staffers of the series.

Cesar Montano and Richard Gutierrez would have starred in the sleek heist drama loosely based on a French novel. Montano's unexpected pullout on Friday when he filed his certificate of candidacy for a Senate seat left a vacancy in the cast. He had not signed his contract with the network at the time.

"We will try Edu (Manzano) first," said GMA 7 Wilma Galvante, senior vice president for entertainment TV, said on Friday in a text message to INQUIRER Entertainment, referring to a possible replacement for Montano.

Maybe Edu

Jun Rufino, Manzano's manager, confirmed to INQUIRER Entertainment also through a text message on Saturday that she was in negotiations with Reggie Magno, "Lupin" production manager, for Edu's entry.

Manzano, current chair of the Optical Media Board, was the administration team's earlier candidate for the slot in the race that Montano landed.

But in an earlier interview, Manzano told the INQUIRER that he would not be running for any political post since, "I don't have money."

He just finished taping for "Walang Kapalit," a drama series on ABS-CBN based on the 1980s movie "Hindi Nahahati ang Langit."

Manzano told the INQUIRER on Saturday that he had no contract with ABS-CBN.

"Lupin" is scheduled to air in late March. At the taping on Saturday, it was business as usual for Richard Gutierrez.

Despite the excitement over the scene being shot—involving a helicopter at the rooftop of a high-rise condominium building in Pasig City—Richard Gutierrez could barely hide his disappointment over losing Montano.

"*Sayang* (What a waste)," he said. "I was really excited about working with him. But I wish him the best of luck."

Options

Earlier, Gutierrez, 23, described his 45-year-old former costar as "great—Superman *ang dating*."

He continued: "He's my idol. I'm still positive about the show. We just have to recast his role."

Aside from Manzano, the names of Phillip Salvador and the US-based Gabby Concepcion have been floated as replacement.

"The producers are carefully weighing all options," Gutierrez said. "I'm sure what they want would be the best for the show."

RICHARD GUTIERREZ

ROUNDUP

Writing contest

A FILM CRITIQUE WRITING CONTEST HAS BEEN LAUNCHED TO support Eddie Romero's new movie "Faces of Love."

On top of the competition is the De La Salle Professional Schools Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Graduate School of Business.

The contest is open to all students of the 18 De La Salle Philippines member schools, the Asian Institute of Management, San Beda College, Ateneo Graduate School of Business, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas. The first, second and third placers will receive P10,000, P5,000 and P2,000, respectively.

CD-ROM entries must be submitted by courier to the De La Salle Professional Schools office, c/o Professor Rene F. Concepcion, 21st Floor, Br. Andrew Gonzales Hall, 2269 Taft Avenue, Manila.

Deadline for submission of entries is on Feb. 27.

'Sharon' anniversary

SHARON CUNETA CELEBRATES THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER show "Sharon" tonight with her past guests and celebrity friends.

To be featured are traffic enforcer Larry Uggadan from the pilot episode, father-and-son Nicanor and John Tabor from the Gay Pride episode and the three underprivileged students given STI college scholarships.

The special airs on ABS-CBN after "Balitang K."

'King & I' auditions

BROADWAY ASIA ENTERTAINMENT WILL HOLD OPEN AUDITIONS FOR future replacements for the 2007-2008 Asian Tour of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King & I" directed by Bobby Garcia.

To be screened are male and female dancers in their late teens to late 20s, preferably with knowledge of Thai dancing.

For audition schedule and requirements, contact Atlantis Productions at 892-7078.

Catastrophe chronicles

DISCOVERY CHANNEL PRESENTS "SUPERVOLCANO," A THREE-DAY special airing March 5 to 7 at 9 p.m.

Episode one and two, "Supervolcano: Real Time Apocalypse," stars Michael Riley and Gary Lewis in a fictional account of one of nature's rarest and most cataclysmic events—a volcanic super-eruption.

In the final episode, "Supervolcano: The Truth About Yellowstone," viewers are projected into the future to see how the world could recover from such disaster.

Free rides

STAR CITY OFFERS FIVE RIDES FREE FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF AN entrance ticket at the regular price of P60.

The weekday promo, which covers 33 rides and walk-through attractions, ends March 31.

Located at the CCP Complex on Roxas Boulevard, Star City opens at 2 p.m

Book launch

TV PERSONALITY TINTIN BERSOLA-BABAO HAS LAUNCHED HER latest children's book, "Basura Monster," at the Bridges Bookstore at the V-Mall (formerly Virra Mall) in Greenhills last Feb. 20.

Published by Goodwill and Katha, the book is endorsed by the Department of Education and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sneak previews

COLUMBIA PICTURES' inspiring drama "The Pursuit of Happyness," starring Will Smith, will have special sneak previews tomorrow and on Feb. 27 in selected theaters.

"Happyness" is the true-life story of Chris Gardner (Smith), a struggling salesman who had to endure many hardships in pursuit of his drea [illegible] bett [illegible] for his [illegible]

Mar [illegible] ter Smith's own son, Jaden Christopher Syre Smith as Gardner's son Christopher. Thandie Newton also stars

"THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS"

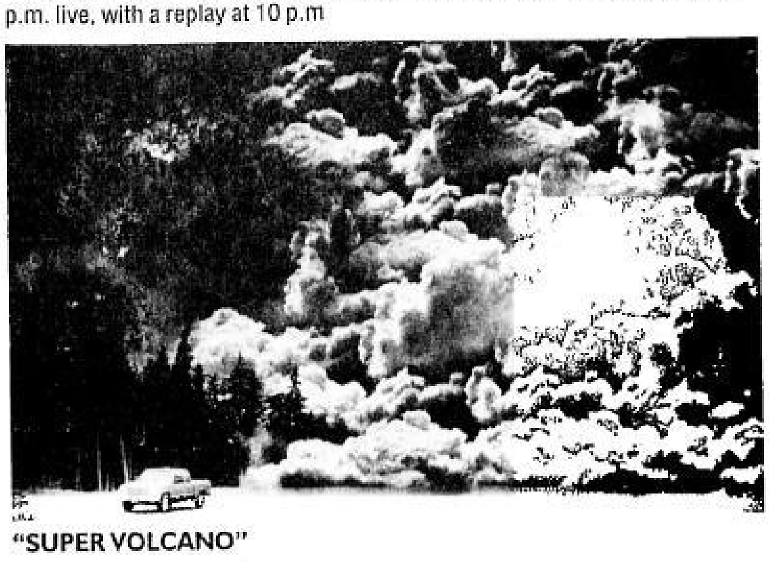
Opening in local theaters on March 7, the film is distributed by Columbia Pictures local office of Sony Pictures Releasing International.

'Survivo [illegible] Fiji'

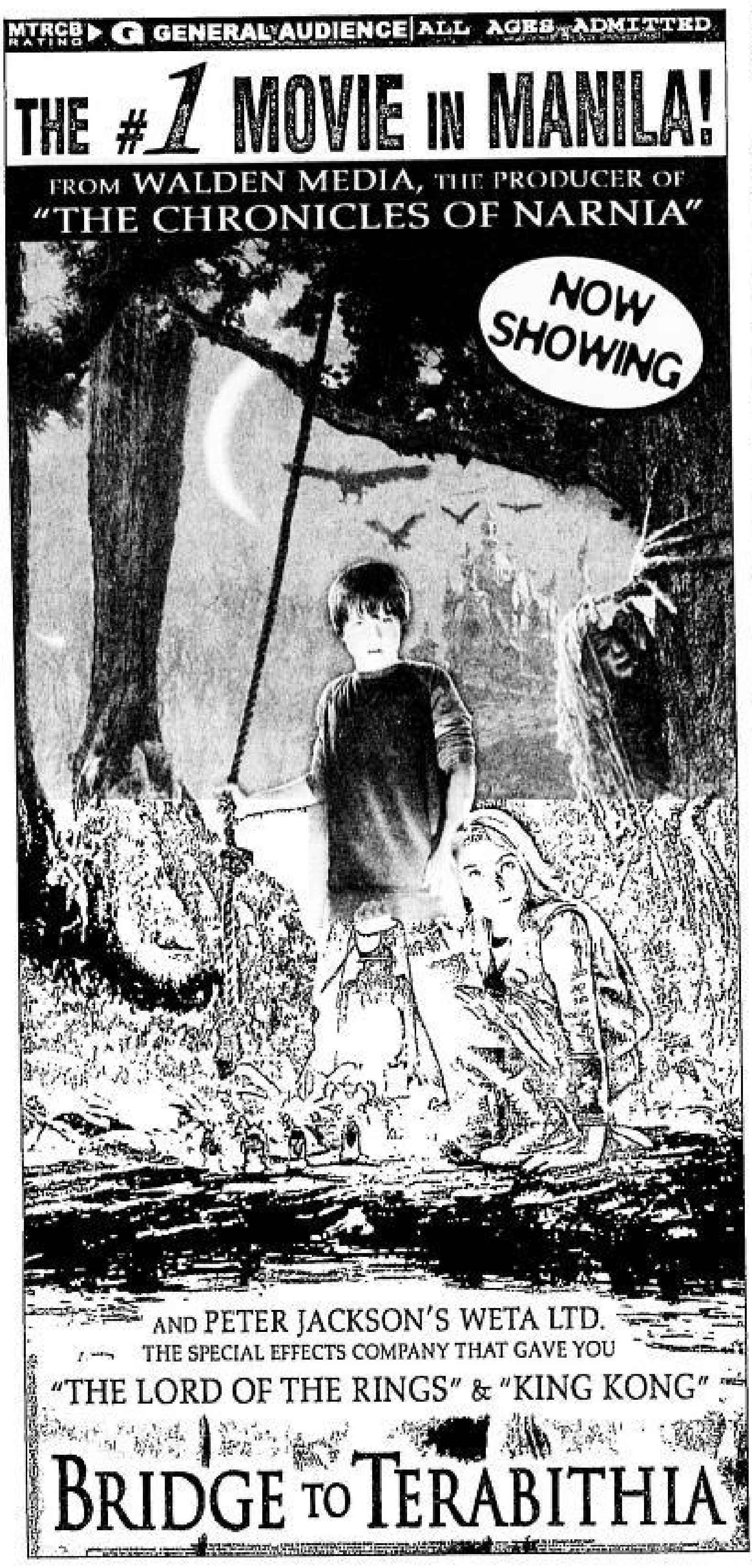
THE REALITY TV PROGRAM "SURVIVOR: FIJI!" RETURNS THIS season with new twists, challenges and conditions different from previous editions.

From the Fijian Islands, the contestants adjust with extreme living conditions, one of luxury and comfort and the other of constant disadvantage and scarcity.

Hosted by Jeff Probst, the show airs on Crime/Suspense every Friday, 3 p.m. live, with a replay at 10 p.m



"SUPER VOLCANO"



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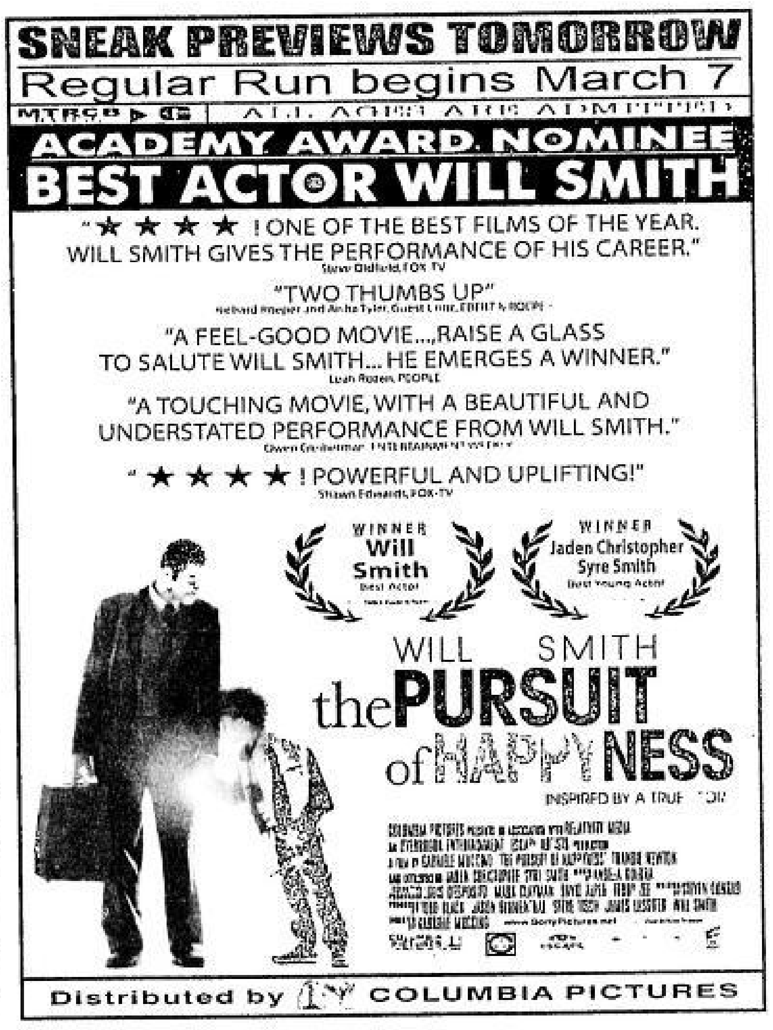

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WILL SMITH the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS
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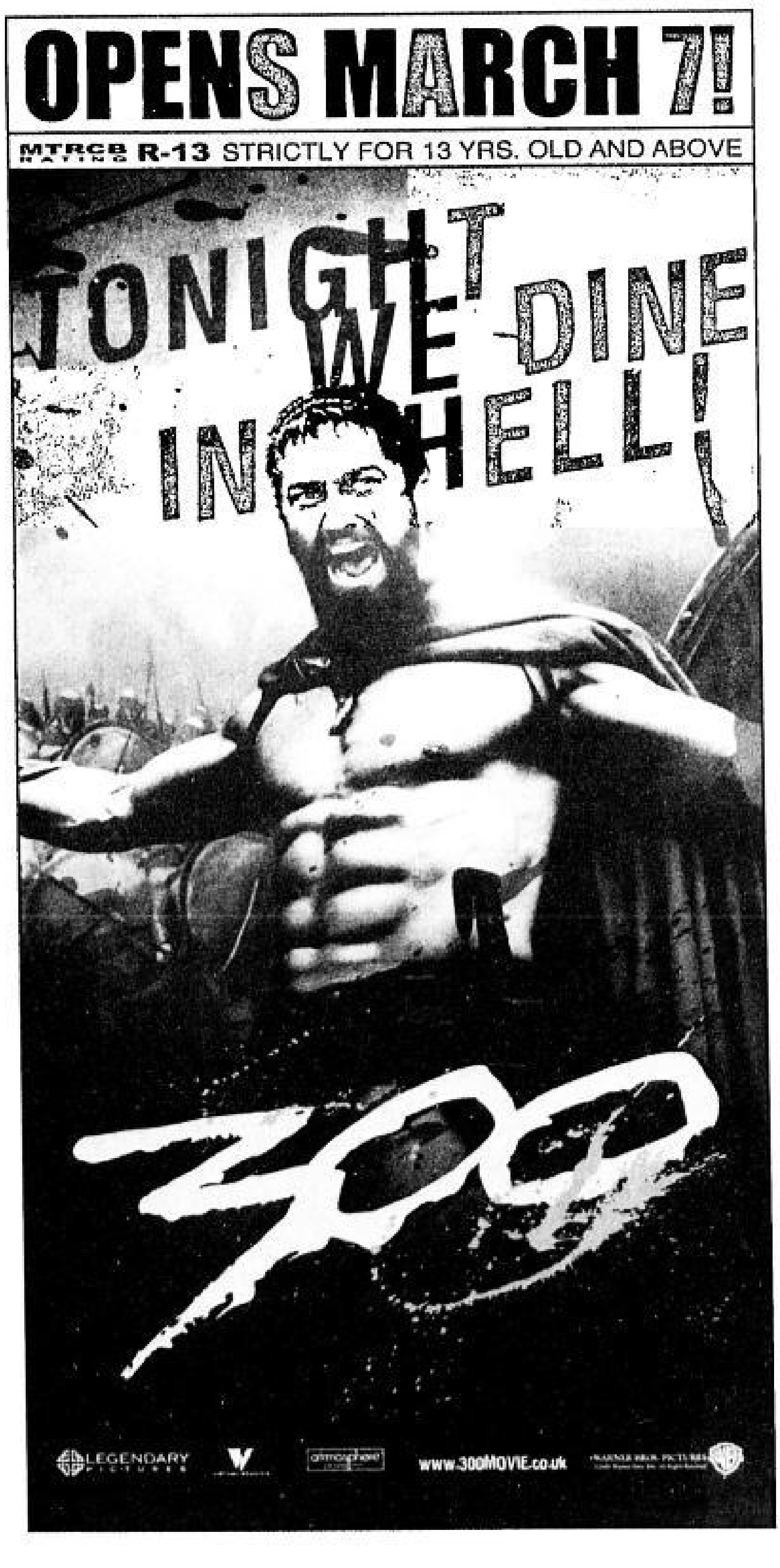

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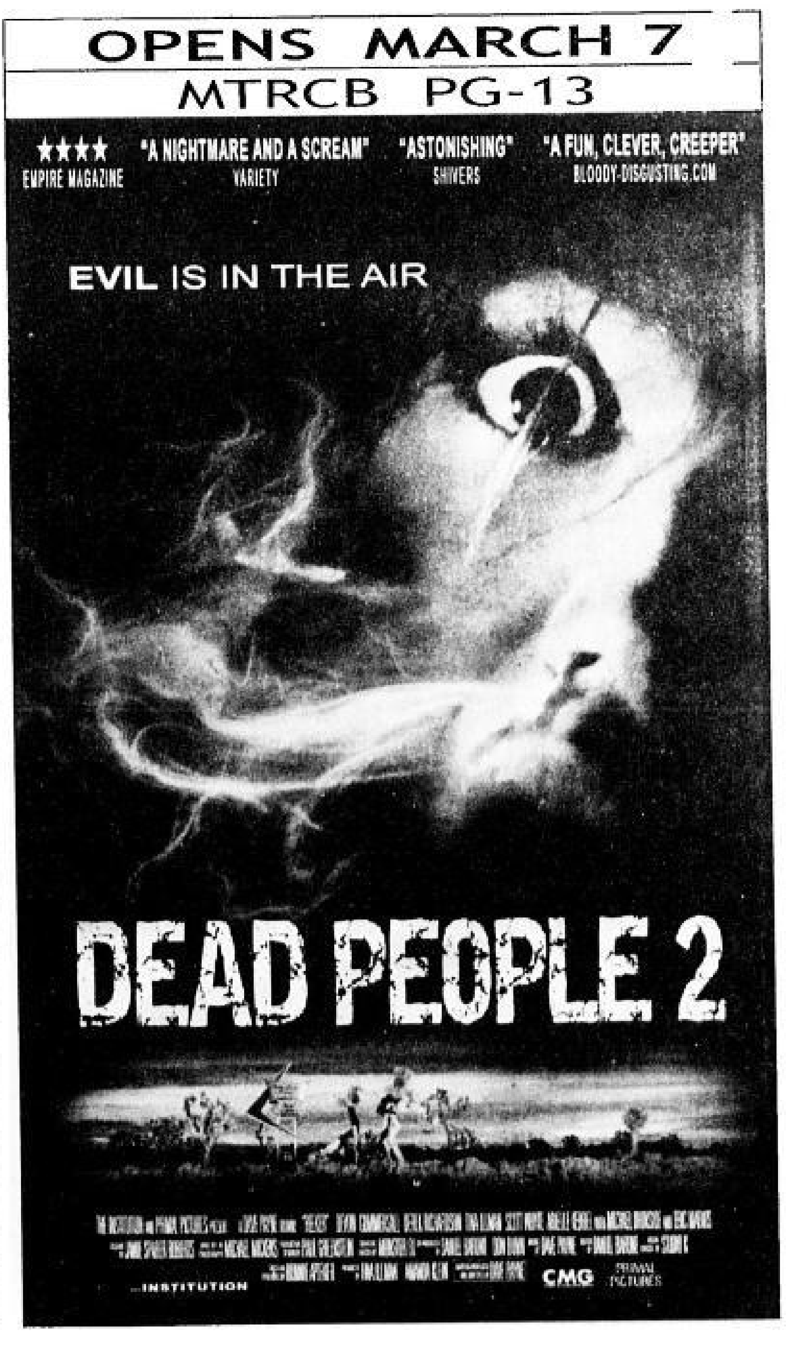

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20 hits

"HITS!," A JOINT VENTURE OF Sony BMG Music, Warner Music and MCA Music, contains 20 tracks that have enjoyed massive radio and music video airplay.

Among the tracks are are "Irreplaceable" (Beyonce), "London Bridge" (Fergie), "Sexyback" (Justin Timberlake), "Ain't No Other Man" (Christina Aguilera), "Sorry" (Madonna), "Waiting on the World to Change" (John Mayer), "Save Room" (John Legend) and "Buttons" (Pussycat Dolls).

'Good Monsters'

Jars of Clay's new album "Good Monsters" was recently awarded Album of the Year by CCM Magazine.

The album has 11 original songs and a remake of Julie Miller's "All My Tears."

Making their guest appearance in the album are Kate York on "Even Angels Cry," Leigh Nash on "Mirrors and Smoke" and the African Children's Choir on "Light Gives Heat."

Making the Greeks look like geeks

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GREEK PLAYS ARE KNOWN for larger-than-life characters and situations, as well as convoluted familial relationships. But they have nothing on **Zhang Yimou**'s latest film, "Curse of the Golden Flower," which has its royal characters engaging in complex acts that make Greeks look like geeks.

For starters, the empress played by **Gong Li** is having an affair with her husband's son by another woman. Later, the son has an affair with a lady-in-waiting who turns out to be his sister, because her mother is the emperor's former beloved.

For his part, the emperor (**Chow Yun-Fat**) is slowly poisoning his wife. As for their two other sons, they get variously involved in a coup instigated by the empress, and lay their young lives on the line in the process.

These relationships and developments are positively "operatic" in treatment and effect, assaulting viewers with wave after wave of shocks and extreme emotion.

The point to all this? That the Chinese royal family may be deemed godlike by their rapt subjects, but their feet are made of sullen clay. So, don't deify anybody; reserve your obeisances and genuflections for the truly Almighty!

Truth to tell, all that mega-emotionalizing is too much of a temptation for the film's principal actors to throw caution and artistic judgement to the winds, and go for broke in the melodramatic tragedy department, with lush and often embarrassing results.

The main exception is Chow Yun-Fat, who plays the emperor with complex interiority. In fact, we can say that this is the veteran actor's most significant assignment to date, an opportunity to show his versatility and depth.

Gong Li is a great beauty and compelling actress, but her thespic flourishes here are sometimes too self-serving to be artistically judicious.

Perhaps, she decided to up the thespic ante because she's acting in a film that screams "production design!" in capital letters? Truly, director Zhang Yimou's cinematic gremlins and dervishes have been given complete license to THINK BIG for this epic production.

Some of the movie's gargantuan sets look even grander than Beijing's fabled Forbidden Palace. Some scenes require what look like thousands of bodies, either human or digitized.

And the royal chambers are a marvel of luxury, an intoxication of textures and colors, a visual feast so overwhelming that it beggars many other acclaimed Chinese productions.

It's like the usually disciplined and judicious director decided to give his extravagant side a chance to luxuriate in artistic excess, to vivify the utter decadence that eventually caused the all-mighty royal family to stumble and fall.

If so, the director has made his thematic point well. But, if all this is excess for excess' sake, we trust that the acclaimed director has gotten his fix of extra-extravagance by way of this production, and will soon go back to his more admired judicious and focused mode.

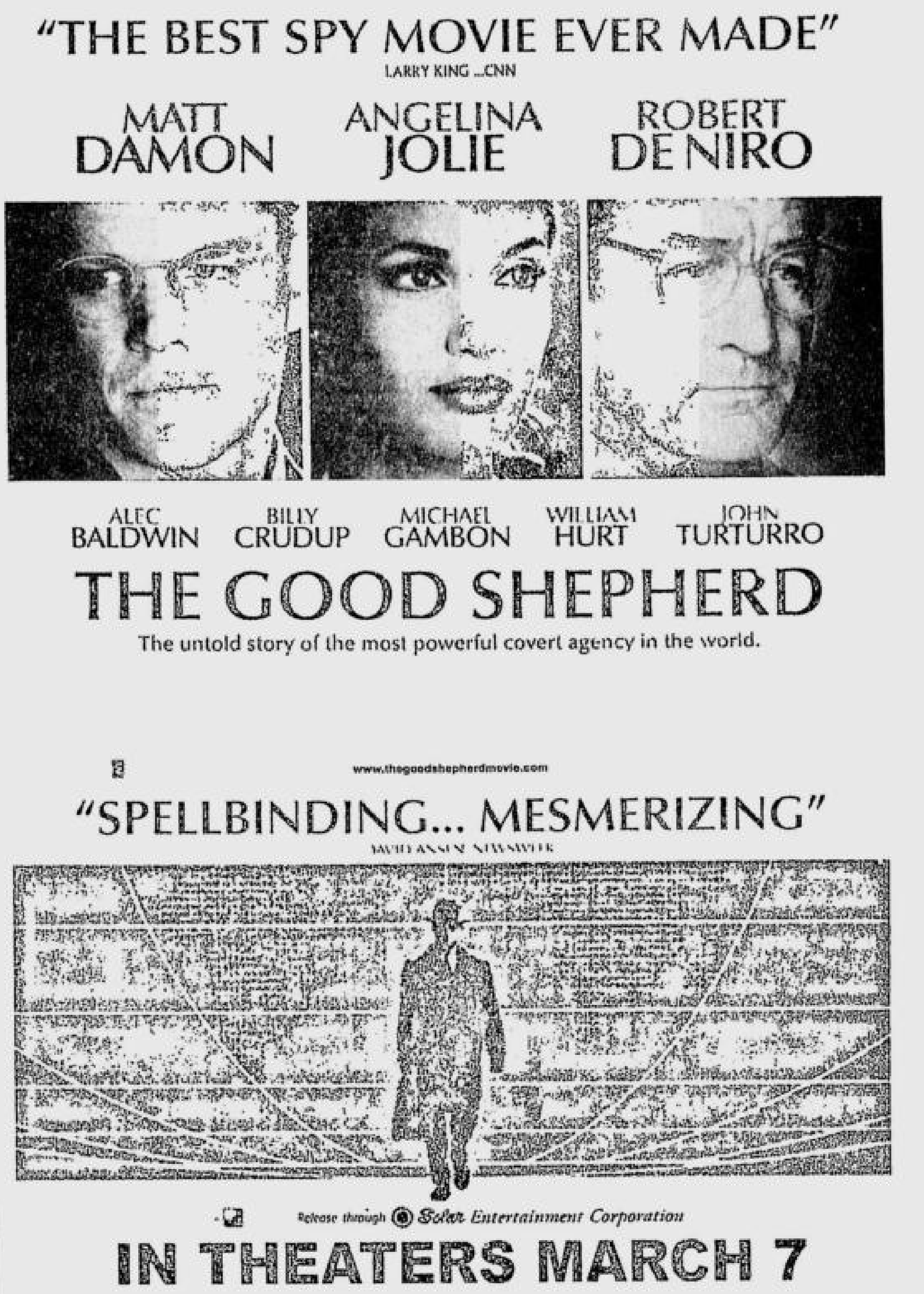
> Director Zhang Yimou should soon go back to focused mode

'Flushed Away'

In the new animated feature, "Flushed Away," Roddy (**Hugh Jackman**) is a "society rat" who gets accidentally flushed away into the bustling sewer underworld of Ratropolis. He meets a scavenger named Rita (**Kate Winslet**) and hires her to get him back home—but the order is taller than they both initially think.

Frio on tour

The **Frio** band performs today at Padis Point Caloocan, Feb. 28 at Padi's Point Calamba, March 16 at Padi's Point Marikina and March 30 at Padi's Point Biñan.



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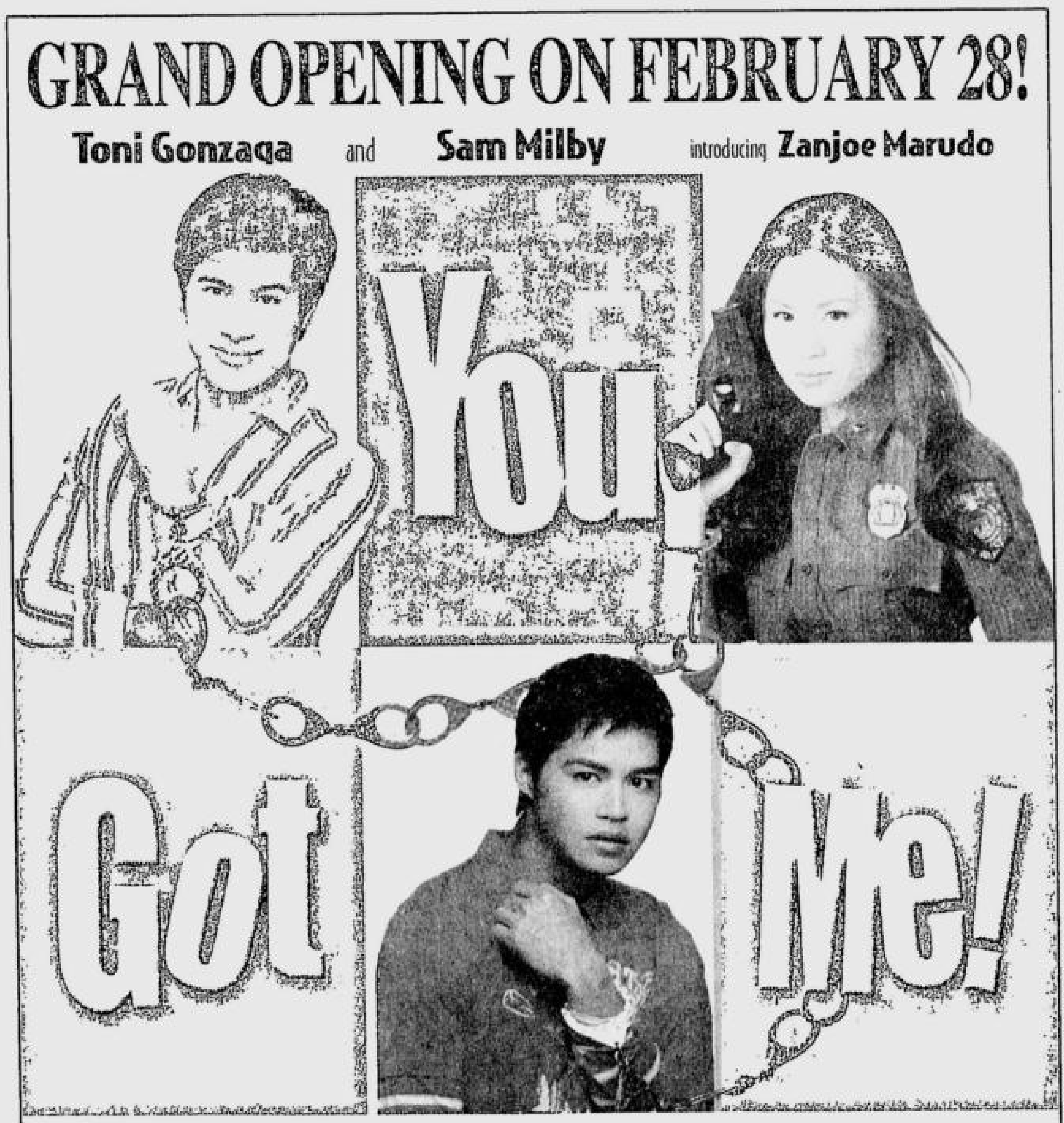

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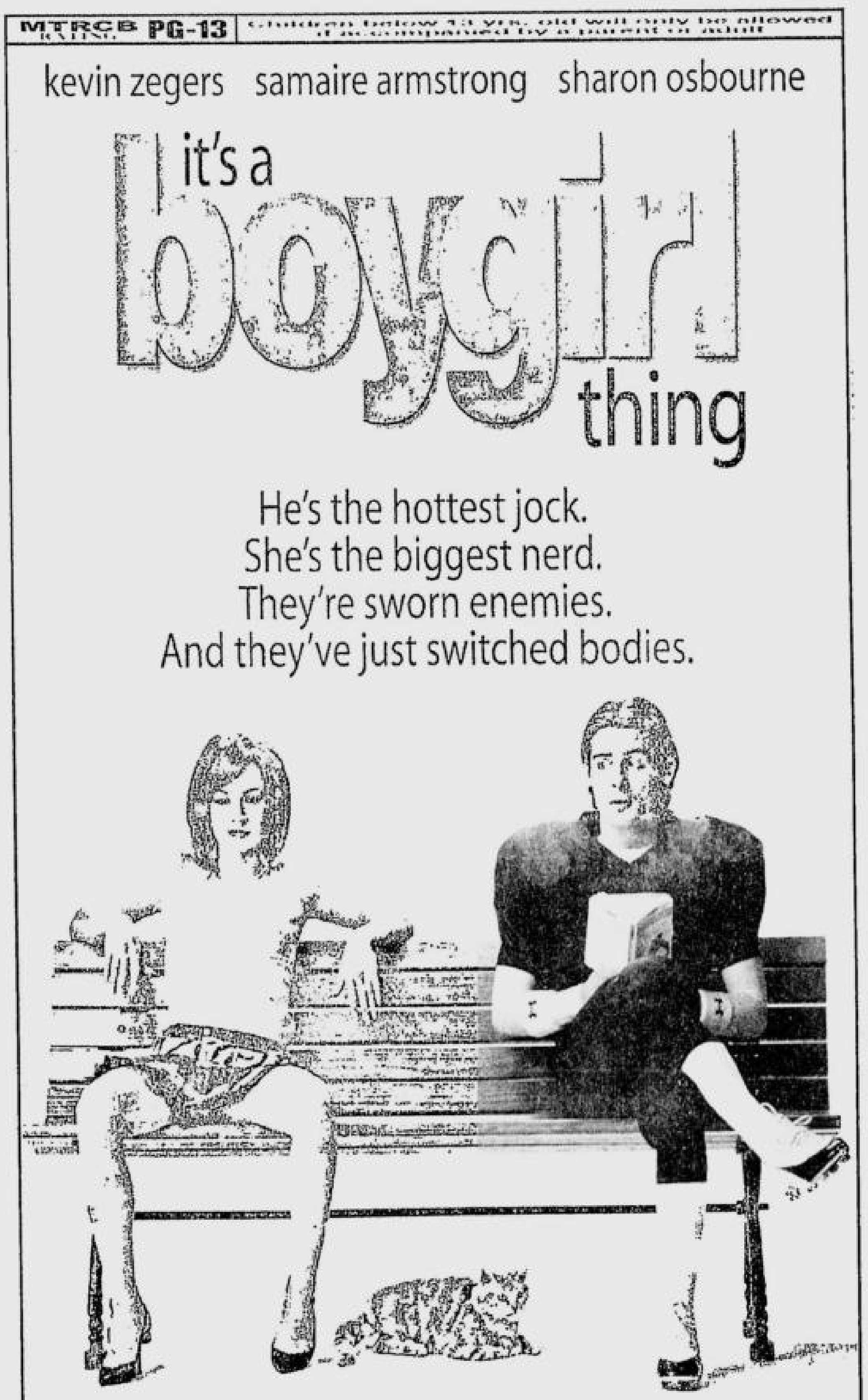

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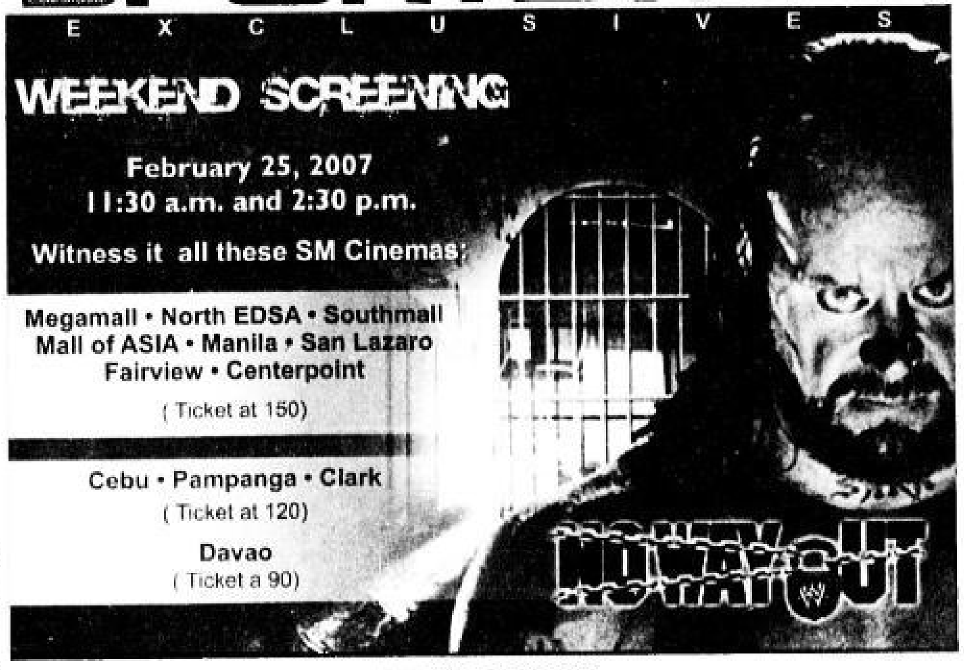

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February 25, 2007
11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Witness it all these SM Cinemas:

Megamall • North EDSA • Southmall
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Davao
(Ticket a 90)

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
IN 2D
11:00AM 1:20PM 3:40PM 6:00PM 8:20PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 THE MESSENGER
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 NUMBER 23
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

PREMIERE CINEMA
THE PROMISE
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
CINEMA 2
MUSIC AND LYRICS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 GHOST RIDER
5 THE PROMISE
6 NUMBER 23
7 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
8 THE HOLIDAY/ WWE
9 THE MESSENGER
10 FACES OF LOVE
11 EPIC MOVIE
12 GHOST RIDER

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NUMBER 23
3 GHOST RIDER
4 RESERVED
5 EPIC MOVIE
6 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
7 THE MESSENGER
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 RESERVED
10 THE PROMISE
11 CATCH AND RELEASE
12 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE PROMISE
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 MUSIC AND LYRICS
6 NUMBER 23
7 GHOST RIDER
8 THE PROMISE
9 EPIC MOVIE
10 THE MESSENGER
11 THE FOUNTAIN
12 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 GHOST RIDER
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 NUMBER 23
4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
5 THE PROMISE
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
9 THE FOUNTAIN
10 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS/WWE
3 NUMBER 23
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 THE PROMISE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM/ WWE
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER
5 NUMBER 23
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 THE MESSENGER
8 EPIC MOVIE
9 FACES OF LOVE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 NUMBER 23
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 THE CLEANER/ WWE
6 GHOST RIDER
7 FACES OF LOVE
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 THE PROMISE
10 THE MESSENGER
11 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
12 THE HOLIDAY

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS (046)4323201-04
1 BABEL
2 THE PROMISE
3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4 GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE CLEANER
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 EPIC MOVIE

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1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 GHOST RIDER
4 EPIC MOVIE
5 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
6 THE PROMISE
7 NUMBER 23
8 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 BABEL
5 THE PROMISE
6 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
4 THE FOUNTAIN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE MESSENGER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 THE PROMISE
4 TENACIOUS D

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 GHOST RIDER
2 BABEL
3 THE MESSENGER
4 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5 FACES OF LOVE
6 THE PROMISE

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE MESSENGER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE PROMISE
2 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 THE PROMISE
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 EPIC MOVIE
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 EPIC MOVIE
2 THE HOLIDAY
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RESERVED
2 GHOST RIDER
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS
5 THE MESSENGER
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
7 THE PROMISE
8 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BABEL
2 RESERVED
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
7 RESERVED
8 THE MESSENGER

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 GHOST RIDER
2 FACES OF LOVE/ WWE
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 THE CLEANER
6 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 GHOST RIDE
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 BABEL

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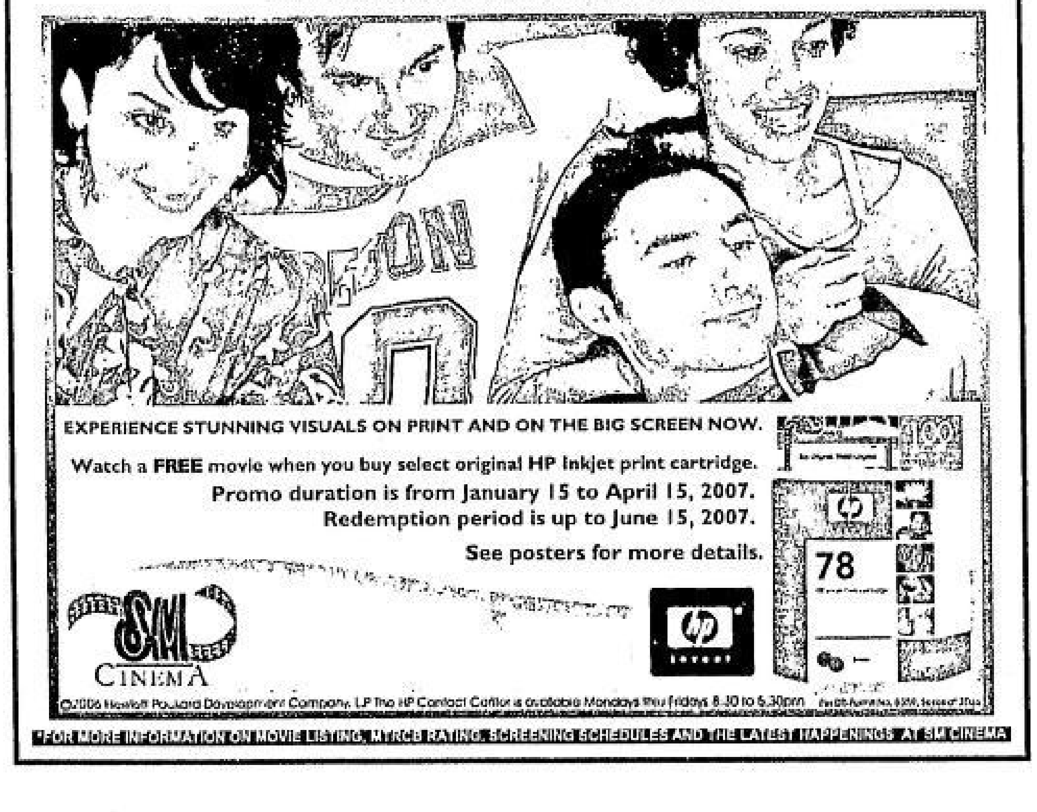

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ASK THE DUST 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	THE PROMISE 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40	GHOST RIDER 2:05 / 4:35 / / 7:05 / 9:50	
THE MESSENGERS 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	MUSIC & LYRICS 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	THE HOLIDAY 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40	GHOST RIDER 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

1	EPIC MOVIE	12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
2	GHOST RIDER	12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
3	NUMBER 23	1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
4	THE PROMISE	12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
5	BRIDGE OF TERABITHIA	12:05 R4 / 1:20 / 3:35 / 5:50 / 8:05

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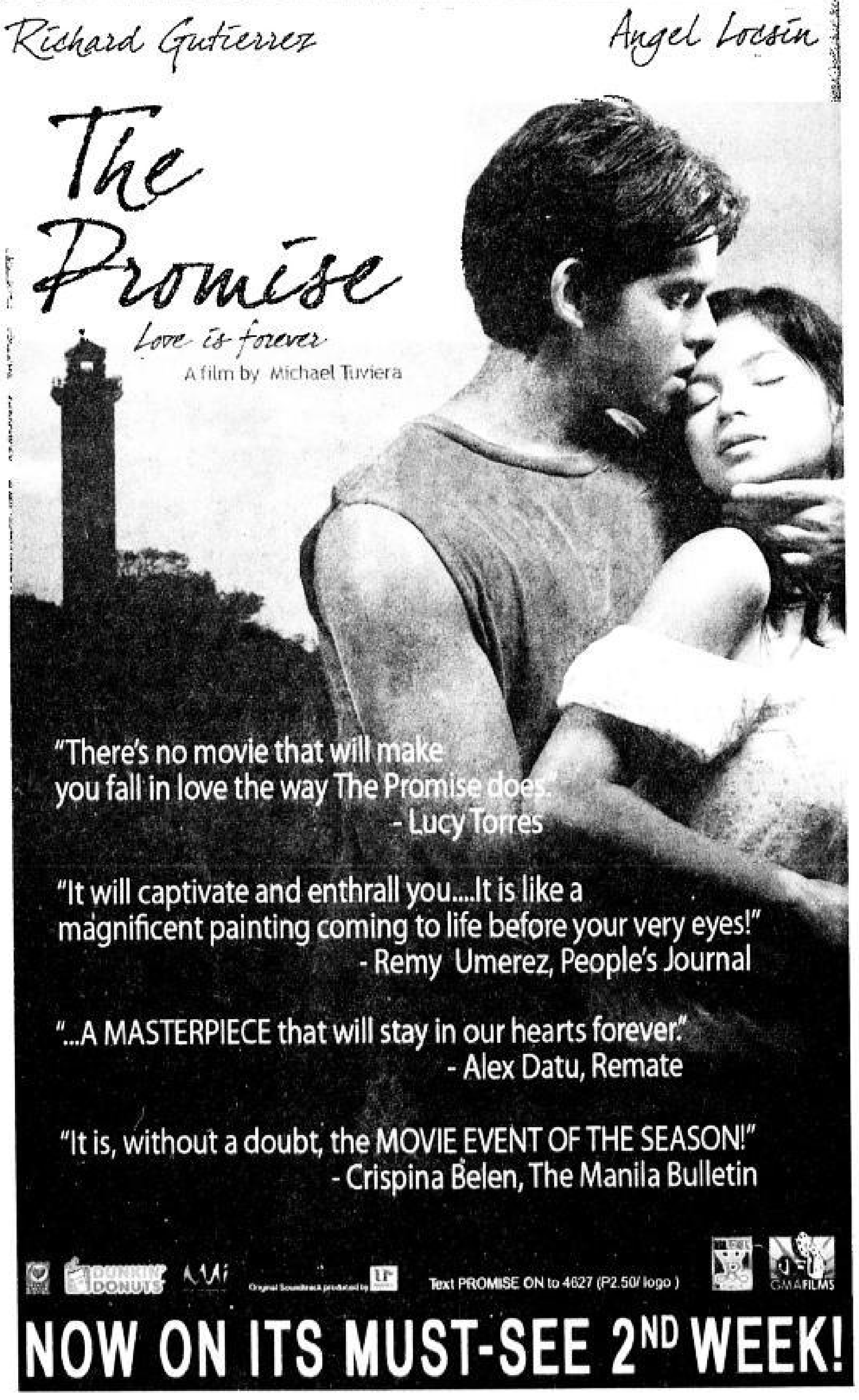

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Who's coming to ...

From page H1

score.

And now, the parties before and after the show. As we write this, the hottest ticket among the bashes scheduled on Saturday, the eve of the awards show, is **Giorgio Armani**'s champagne reception celebrating the Oscars. No less than Armani himself will greet guests at a huge estate in Beverly Hills. The very select crowd will be treated to the designer's Prive Spring/Summer 2007 couture collection.

Who's expected? Tom, Katie and their new pals **Jennifer Lopez** and **Marc Anthony**, plus their newly ransplanted LA buddies **Victoria** and **David Beckham** (he will be playing for the Los Angeles Galaxy), Steve Martin, Warren Beatty and Annette Bening, George Clooney, and Michelle Pfeiffer, to name a few.

Above A-listers will hop from that party to DreamWorks co-founding partner **Jeffrey Katzenberg**'s annual "Night Before Party." This has become a traditional Oscar eve occasion which raises millions of dollars for the Motion Picture and Television Fund. Reporters are barred from this event held at the Sultan of Brunei's posh Beverly Hills Hotel.

Also throwing Saturday parties are the Weinsteins—an intimate gathering; Society of Composers and Lyricists—tunesmiths' toast the nominees in the Oscar music categories; and Motion Picture Sound Editors—in honor of **Clint Eastwood**. With all these soirees, who will have time to prepare and primp for the big day?

On Sunday evening, the official party is the Governors Ball at Hollywood and Highland's ballroom. The Academy reportedly spends almost $1 million for this after-show bash which features food by Wolfgang Puck.

The A-listers, winners and losers then run and try to get into Vanity Fair's Oscar party at Morton's, one of LA's landmark restaurants. A gold statuette in hand is the best ticket.

There's also **Elton John**'s AIDS Foundation fundraising dinner at the Pacific Design Center, fondly called by the locals as the Blue Whale due to the structure's hue and shape. To party for a good cause always appeals to the stars' conscience so the turnout is always good. Plus, one never knows who Elton will cajole into singing with him as he plays the piano.

Those who can't get in any of those events has the last chance in the "Night of 100 Stars" at the Beverly Hills Hotel. But a forewarning: Variety describes the guest list as "a surreal collection of the aging famous with accompanying gawkers."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

Thumbnails of Oscar nominees

HOLLYWOOD—THUMBNAILS OF NOMINEES for Best Actress at the 79th Academy Awards:

Helen Mirren—The overwhelming favorite, British veteran Mirren, 61, has scooped every major acting award of the year for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in royal drama "The Queen," winning Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild and BAFTA honors.

Meryl Streep—An Oscars institution, Streep, 57, earned a record 14th Academy Award nomination for her performance as the catty fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly in "The Devil Wears Prada."

Kate Winslet—Thirty-one-year-old British star Winslet is the youngest person to receive five Oscar nominations, her latest coming for her performance in the adultery drama "Little Children."

Penelope Cruz—The 32-year-old Spanish actress rose to fame in Oscar-winning foreign language movies such as "Belle Epoque" and "All About My Mother." The former ballerina proved her acting talent in Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's female ensemble drama "Volver."

Judi Dench—The only woman over 50 to win an acting Oscar in the last decade, for her performance in "Shakespeare in Love," British veteran Dench, 72, turned in one of her finest performances as a lonely school teacher who develops an obsessive crush on a young colleague in "Notes on a Scandal." This is her sixth Oscar nod. *AFP*

The actors

HOLLYWOOD—Thumbnails of nominees for Best Actor:

Forest Whitaker—The odds-on favorite, Whitaker has won every major acting honor this year for his portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin's descent into despotic madness in "The Last King of Scotland."

FOREST WHITAKER

Leonardo DiCaprio—Hollywood's golden boy was nominated for playing the cynical mercenary Danny Archer in "Blood Diamond." It is his third Oscar nod.

Peter O'Toole—The legendary Irish actor was first nominated for an Oscar in 1962 after his startling performance as T.E. Lawrence in David Lean's masterpiece "Lawrence of Arabia." Since then O'Toole, 74, has been nominated on no fewer than seven occasions, earning a lifetime achievement Academy Award in 2003.

Ryan Gosling—The Canadian actor gives an astounding performance in "Half Nelson" as the well-meaning history teacher who strikes up an unlikely friendship with a student and becomes addicted to crack cocaine.

Will Smith—The rapper-turned-actor received the second Oscar nomination of his career for "The Pursuit of Happyness," playing broke single parent Chris Gardner desperately trying to provide for his son. He was previously nominated for "Ali" in 2001. *AFP*

Rehab escape

LOS ANGELES—Britney Spears reportedly left a Malibu rehabilitation center Wednesday 24 hours after checking herself in following weeks of troubling behavior culminating in shaving her own head. Celebrity websites TMZ.com, theinsideronline.com and People.com said the singer, 25, left what should have been a month-long program at the Promises residential center. *Reuters*

Dancing Heather

HEATHER MILLS

LOS ANGELES—Heather Mills, estranged wife of former Beatle Paul McCartney, has joined the next group of celebrities who will strut their stuff on the ABC television hit "Dancing with the Stars," the network said on Wednesday. Mills, 39, a former model turned social activist who lost her left leg below the knee in a traffic accident, will be the first contestant on the show to compete with an artificial limb, the Walt Disney Co.-owned broadcaster said. *Reuters*

Grey's spin-off

NEW YORK—Walt Disney Co.'s television network ABC has decided to pursue a spin-off of its popular medical drama "Grey's Anatomy," the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. It will star Dr. Addison Montgomery-Shepherd, the sexy neonatal surgeon played by Kate Walsh, the paper said. *Reuters*

No 'baby' Oscar

LOS ANGELES—Mickey Rooney says he enjoys being a kid. Margaret O'Brien cautions to choose friends wisely, and Hayley Mills advises to get a good education. If 10-year-old Abigail Breslin wins a supporting actress Oscar on Sunday (Monday in Manila) for playing a young beauty pageant contestant in the film comedy "Little Miss Sunshine," she will join a distinguished list of child actors honored with an Academy Award. While her award would be a full-fledged Oscar, the three above were all honored with so-called "baby" Oscars given to child actors from 1934 to 1960. *Reuters*

ABIGAIL BRESLIN

Int'l race

LOS ANGELES—Clint Eastwood, that most American of actors and directors, has a film nominated for a best picture Oscar, "Letters from Iwo Jima," that is in Japanese, a language he doesn't speak, and was shot in Iceland because it looks a lot like Iwo Jima but was cheaper. Not to be outdone in globalizing America's most famous film awards, another best picture nominee, "Babel," was shot in four countries with actors speaking five languages and was written and directed by two of Mexico's most talented filmmakers. *Reuters*

MART ESCUDERO

JESI CORCUERA

RUSHES

Tearful Jesi

Holding back tears, "Starstruck The Next Level" contestant Jesi Corcuera lost her "survivor" status, but automatically became an "avenger" last Sunday night, along with Mart Escudero.

Corcuera and Escudero received the lowest number of text and online votes from the audience, booting them out from the survivors' lineup. Being an avenger means that they still had the chance to compete for two survivor slots.

Corcuera has been consistently voted off by the other survivors for being a "lousy performer."

On Sunday's live telecast, council member Louie Ignacio took Corcuera to task, saying she had not improved.

Had the "Bebot" portion of Sunday's show been a basis for judging, Escudero would not have lost his survivor slot. In the segment, all the boys were dressed up as women, and had to introduce themselves as if they were contestants in a gay beauty contest.

Escudero's portrayal of Marta Escudero impressed council member Lorna Tolentino, who told him, "You made me believe you were a woman."

Unfortunately, the drag fest was only for Sunday's show.

Corcuera and Escudero join avengers Jan Manual, Dex Quindoza, Rich Asuncion and Lizzy Pecson in posing challenges to the remaining six survivors—Stef Prescott, Jewel Mische, Kris Bernal, Aljur Abrenica, Prince Stefan, and Paolo Avelina—and in competing for two survivor slots this week.

The final eight survivors will compete for six slots. "The six will then compete for four titles," said Janine Nacar, program manager.

Nini Valera

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1 EPIC MOVIE
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
R-13

2 GHOST RIDER
12:20, 2:25, 5:40, 8:25, 11:05
PG-13

3 THE NUMBER 23
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R-18

4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
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EPIC MOVIE R13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:25	BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA G 11:35,1:45,3:55, 6:05,8:15	MUSIC AND LYRICS PG13 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30
GHOST RIDER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	THE HOLIDAY PG13 1:20,4:10,7:00,9:50	THE NUMBER 23 R13 11:35,1:45,3:55, 6:05,8:15,10:25

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10:45, 12:40, 3:05
5:30, 7:55, 10:25
R-13
CINEMA 2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
11:45, 2:25, 5:00
7:35, 10:10 PG-13
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 BRIDGE TO TARABITHIA
11:45, 2:05, 4:20
6:35, 9:00 GP
CINEMA 4 EPIC MOVIE
10:40, 12:55, 3:10
5:25, 7:40, 10:00
R-13
CINEMA 5 GHOST RIDER
10:45, 1:40, 4:30
7:20, 10:10
PG-13
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MUSIC MUSEUM

March 06, 2007	EDNA LEDESMA	8:00 PM
	" DANCING W/ THE CHAMPIONS "	
March 16 & 23, 2007	SITTI IN LOVE	8:30 PM
March 30, 2007	[illegible]	8:00 PM

T·E·A·T·R·I·N·O
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EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
March 9, 2007	DAVE	8:30 PM
March 10, 2007	JOHN LESACA	8:00 PM
March 15, 22, 29, 2007	RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:30 PM

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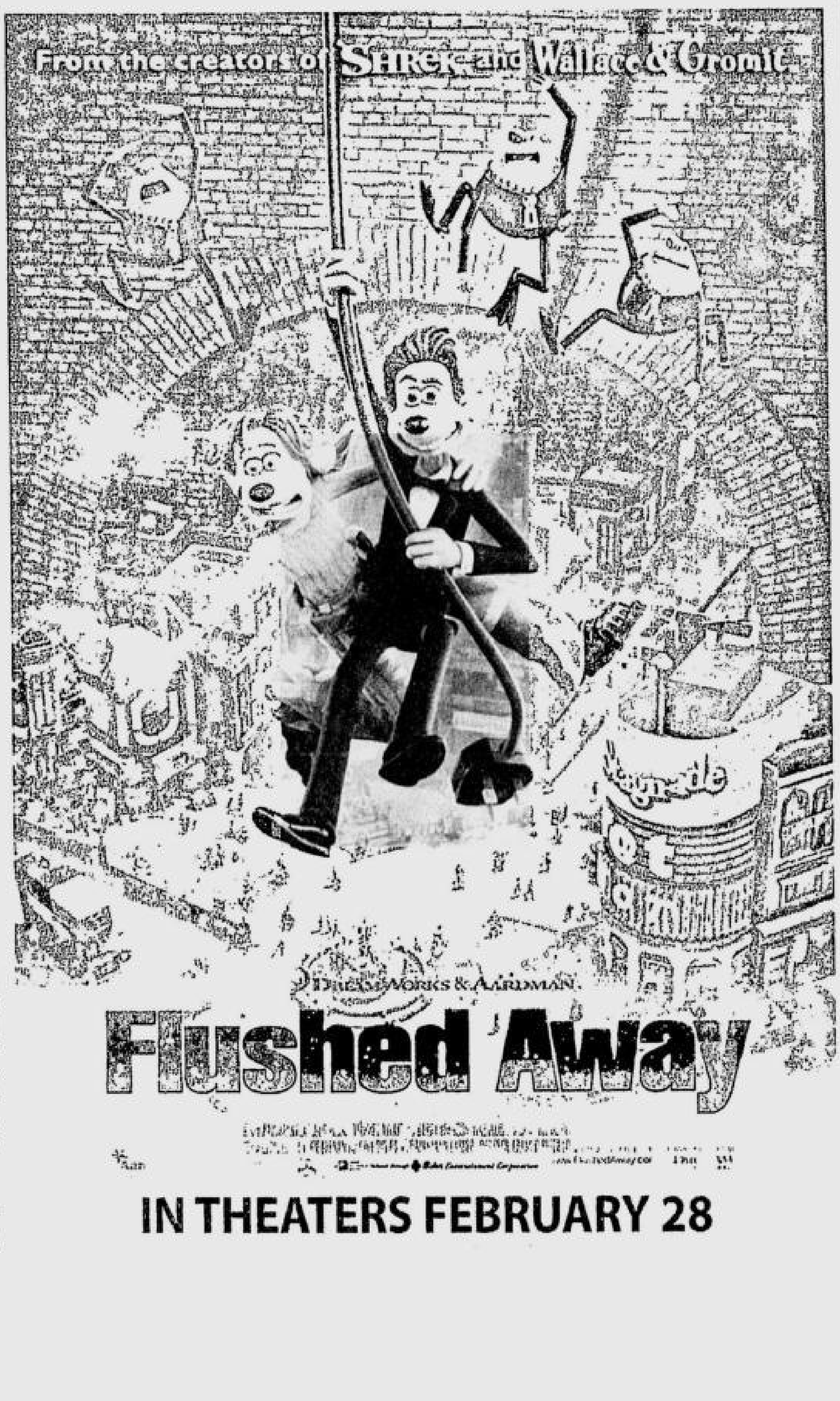
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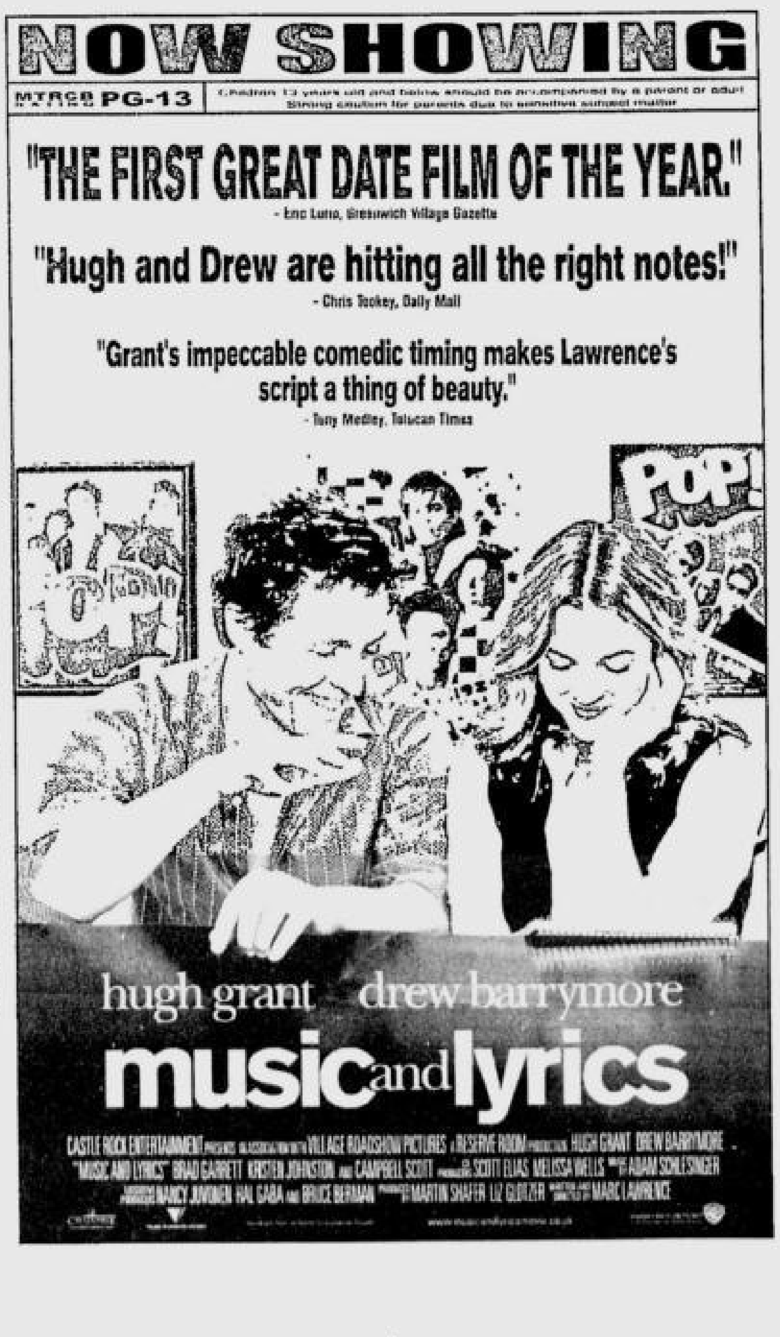
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Pinoy Big Brother season 2

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Ang Diyaryo ng Teleserye ng Totoong Buhay
FEB. 2007
VOL. 1

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Locations	Required Cash Capital	Deadline for Submission of Application
1. Evangelista St., cor Arguelles St. Makati City	P6.5M	03/15/07
2. Regalado Avenue, Quezon City	P2.0M	03/15/07
3. Link Road, Sucat, Parañaque City	P2.0M	03/15/07
4. Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Piñas City	P2.0M	03/15/07
5. Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna	P5.0M	03/15/07
6. Governor's Drive, Dasmariñas, Cavite	P2.0M	03/15/07
7. Pastor Ave. Bo. Cuta, Batangas City	P5.0M	03/15/07
8. Solano, Nueva Vizcaya	P5.0M	03/15/07
9. Sgt. Rivera cor Matutum St. Quezon City	P6.0M	03/31/07
10. V. Luna Road, Masikap St. Quezon City	P6.0M	03/31/07
11. San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte	P8.0M	04/30/07

Note: Above capital requirement needed for actual station operation; No up-front money is given to Petron.

Only applicants who can meet the following "MUST" requirements need apply:

a. Must be able to put up required capitalization;
b: Must be able to operate and run the station on full time basis;
c. Must not be an existing dealer of any other oil company.

Preference shall be given to applicants residing near the station being applied for. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please secure your application forms from Luzon Reseller, Petron Corporation Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila c/o Ms. Rosette P. Sanchez at tel. 563-8521 Loc. 282

Submit application forms not later than deadline specified for each location.

(PDI – Feb. 25, 2007)

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- **Vacant Lot located @ Amore Ville Subd., Saluysoy Drive, Brgy. De Ocampo, Trece Martirez City with total lot area of 147,203 sq.m. with selling price of P65M**
- **Pres. Magsaysay Road (Provincial Road leading to Biak na Bato shrine) located @ Brgy. Pulong Bayabas & Pacalag, San Miguel, Bulacan with total lot area of 775,961 sq.m. with selling price of P50M**
- **3-stry Commercial Bldg. located @ Lot 12 Blk. 5, No. 16 Aki Ken Bldg., M. Alvarez Ave., Golden Acre Subd., Las Piñas City with total lot area of 181 sq.m. floor area of 345 sq.m. with selling price of P5.3M**
- **2-stry Ofc Warehouse Bldg. located @ 9th St., Between 9th and 10th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City LA=487.50 sq.m, FA=820 sq.m. Selling Price = @P12M**
- **Highly commercialized vacant lot located near St. Joseph, Jollibee, Residenza Subd., Pag-ibig City, lot area = 4,341 sq.m. @ P7,000 per sq.m.**
- **Office Condominium Unit with 2 parking slots located @ Unit 1403, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Makati City with total floor area of 190 sq.m. with selling price of P12,850,000.00**
- **Residential Condo located @ Unit 9-A Phase 2 Green Valley Village, Green Valley Road, Baguio City with total floor area of 100.25 sq.m. with selling price of P2.1M**

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(PDI - Feb. 25, 2007)

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- Along Padre Sierra Ave., Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City LA: 6,463m²; ₱93.0MM
- Along Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Rd., Sta. Rosa, Laguna LA: 35,800m², ₱200.0MM
- Along Sta. Maria-San Jose Del Monte Prov'l. Rd., SJDM, Bul. LA: 67,706 m², ₱23.7MM
- No. 3 San Andres Canumay, Valenzuela City LA: 9,037m², ₱25.0MM

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IND'L. LOTS W/ IMPR

- Along Sto. Domingo, Cainta, Rizal LA: 13,174m²; TFA: 7,521.41m²; ₱65.0MM
- No. 1447 Leroy St., Paco, Manila LA: 1,373m²; TFA: 1,914m²; ₱30.0MM
- Int. M. Gregorio St., Bagong Filipino Comp., Valenzuela LA: 4,835m², FA: 7,990.50m², ₱38.0MM
- Along Libtong Rd., Mey., Bulacan LA: 52,488m², TFA 18,825m²; ₱185.0MM
- Along Cagayan Valley Rd., Mayapyap, Cabanatuan City, LA 15,410m²; TFA 2,340m²; ₱35.0MM

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IND'L/RESD'L LOTS W/ IMPR.

- No. 3 Bustamante St., Malabon City; LA: 8,318m², TFA: 6,135m²; ₱67.0MM
- No. 4 Cayetano Arellano St., Malabon City; LA:857m²; TFA: 1,128m²; ₱10.0MM
- No. 191 Kalipunan Ave., Quezon City, LA: 1,125 m²; FA: n/a, ₱40.0MM
- No. 159 Cuneta Ave. cor. Celle St., Pasay; LA:701m², TFA: 484m²; ₱20.0MM
- No. 160 Cuneta Ave., Pasay City; LA:1,527.96m² TFA 1,348m², ₱35.0MM

ALL PRICES ARE NEGOTIABLE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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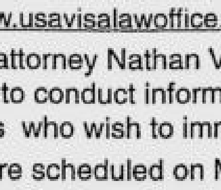

www.usavisalawoffice.com

Immigration attorney Nathan V. Hoffman will come to Manila to conduct informational seminars for RNs & PTs who wish to immigrate to USA

Seminars are scheduled on March 6, 7, 8 at Unit 10-Bolivia St., Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City.

For inquiries please call 8162030/ 8150066

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Misamis Oriental
Municipality of Balingasag

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: February 25, 2007
Contract ID No.: **SP-114-IN-01**
World Bank Loan No.:4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of Two-Storey Municipal Health Center.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Balingasag, Misamis Oriental*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the construction of ***Two-Storey Municipal Health Center with an area of Five Hundred Fifty Eight (558.00) sq.m. to be constructed at Balingasag, Misamis Oriental.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***February 26 during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the office of the BAC Secretariat, Mayor's Office, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of ***Two Hundred Thirty Two Thousand Three Hundred Ten Pesos (Php 232,310.00)*** in form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***BAC Chairman, Mayor's Office, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental on or before April 2, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is ***Nine Million Two Hundred Ninety Two Thousand Two Hundred Ten Pesos and 87/100 (Php 9,292,210.87).***
6. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***March 13, 2007 at 10:00 A.M. at the Farmer's Training Center, Balingasag, Misamis Oriental***

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO L. HANGAD**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 25, 2007)

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Iloilo	March 4, Sunday	Iloilo Grand Hotel 9 am to 12 NN and 2 to 5 pm
Pasig City	March 10, Saturday	Richmonde Hotel, San Miguel Avenue Pasig City Preregistration required
Naga	March 11, Sunday	Ruby Hall, Crown Hotel, P. Burgos St. 9 am to 12 NN and 2 to 5 pm

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With at least five (5) years working experience
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Good in both oral and written communications
Prepared to be trained overseas and willing to travel
to various plantations in the country
Must not be over 45 years old

Application letter with resumé and 2 x 2 ID picture may be sent to:

API, 4th Flr., FCB Financial Center
AC Cortes Avenue, Mandaue City
6014 Cebu, Philippines
Email Address: api@agusanplantations.com
Tel./Fax No. (032) 4207965

(PDI – Feb. 25 & 26, 2007)

Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(LASURECO)
Provincial Capitol Office, Telefax (063) 3520-381; 3520-045

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LASURECO) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) with office address at Maliwanag, Marawi City is inviting all prospective/interested suppliers/bidders to bid for the repair of one (1) unit 5 MVA power transformer and to bid/price the following various materials described below to wit:

Item No.	PARTICULARS
1	Steel Poles (Octagonal/Heavy Duty) 30 Feet (Standard)
2	Conductor, Bare Wire ACSR 2/0 AWG 1/0 AWG
3	Conductor, Insulated ACSR 2/0 AWG 1/0 AWG
4	Distribution Transformer, CSP (Brand New) 15 KVA 25 KVA 50 KVA
5	Cut-Out Arrester Combination With Load Breaker 100 amperes 200 amperes
6	Line Hardware (Standard)
7	KWH Meters 1 phase, 220 V, 10C30 A, Bottom Connected 1 phase, C1 100, 2W, 240v, 60Hz, 30A Form 1S 1 phase, C1 200, 2W, 240v, 60Hz, 30A Form 2S
8	Other Materials 1. Cluster Box 2. Washer 2 1/4 3. Conductor, Duplex #2 4. Compression Connector YHO 150 5. Compression Connector YHO 200 6. Compression Connector YHO 300 7. Compression Connector YHO 400 8. Compression Connector YPC 28 AU
9	Current Transformer (CTI 50:5 100:5 150:5

Above items/materials and hardwares are intended for the construction and expansion of backbone/lateral lines of 100 barangays with a total of 120 circuit kilometers length.

The proceedings/particulars relative to the Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Pre & Post Qualifications and Awards of contract shall be based and governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and/or NEA policies on procurement guidelines for electric cooperatives.

Schedule of BAC Activities:

BAC Activities	Venue	Date
1. Receipt of letters of intent including company profiles from prospective bidders	LASURECO Main Office, Maliwanag, Marawi City	March 06, 2007
2. Pre-Qualification of Bidders/ Suppliers	LASURECO Main Office, Maliwanag, Marawi City	March 09, 2007
3. Pre-Bid Conference and issuance of Bid Documents	LASURECO Main Office, Maliwanag, Marawi City	March 14, 2007
4. Dropping & Opening of Bids		March 21, 2007
5. First Delivery of equipment and materials		March 31, 2007
6. Second Delivery of equipment and materials		April 15, 2007

(Sgd.) **COL. TATAR M. BORIONGAN, GSC (RET)**
Chairman, BAC

(Sgd.) **BALIAMEN P. MAMAINTE, MNSA, CESO III**
General Manager

(PDI–Feb. 25, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Tokens for the Year 2007 NFA Service Awardees

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2007 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P1,200,034.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2007 service awardees, as follows:*

LOT No.	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	179 pieces wristwatches, Model A	118,140.00
2	769 pieces wristwatches, Model B	625,966.00
3	314 pieces wristwatches, Model C	455,928.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2007 NFA service awardees.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *March 7, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on March 20, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount In Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *March 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	-	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	-	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	-	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No.	-	*(632) 455-2758*
Mobile No.	-	*(0928) 410-2732*
e-mail address	-	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website	-	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI–Feb. 18 & 25, 2007)

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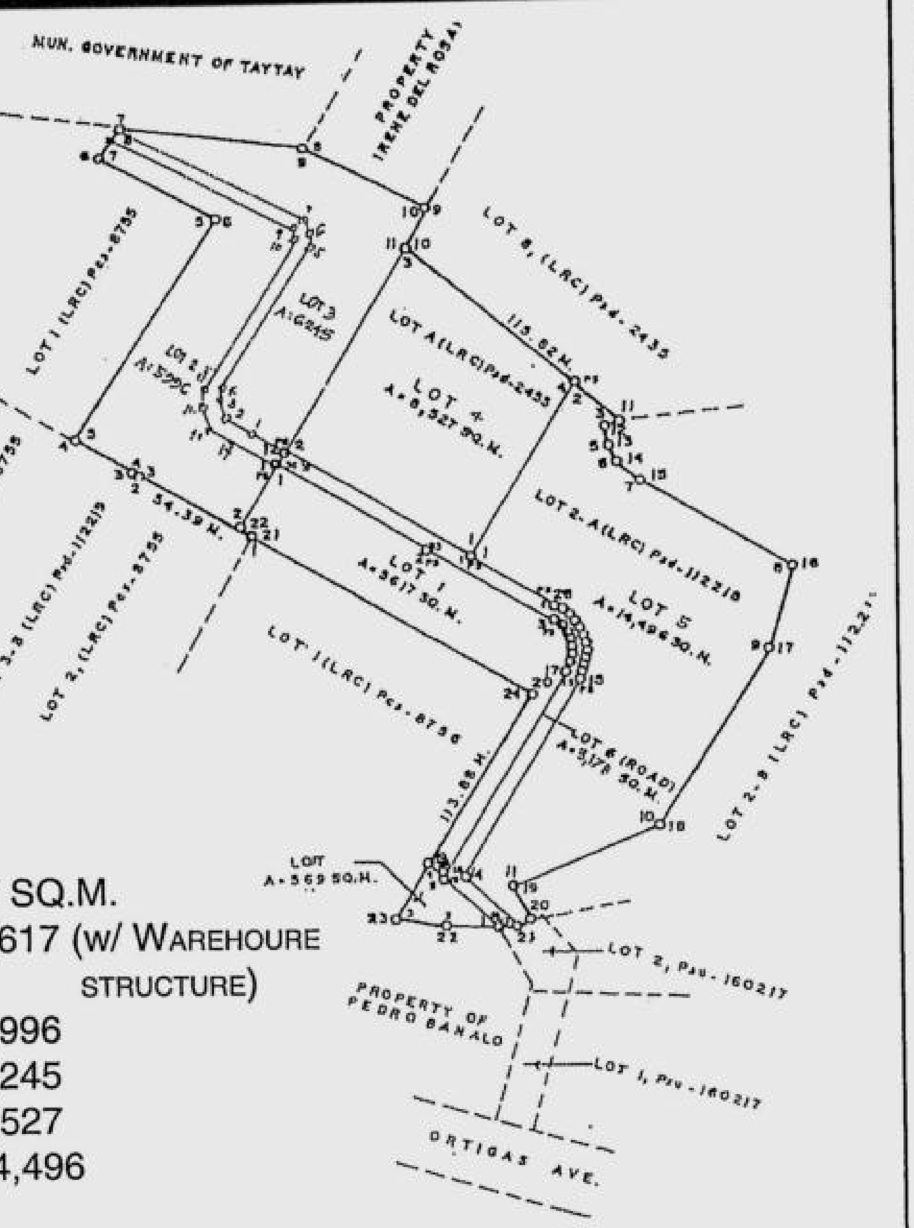

LOT	SQ.M.
1	5,617 (w/ WAREHOURE STRUCTURE)
2	5,996
3	6,245
4	8,527
5	14,496

PRIME PROPERTY FOR INVESTMENT

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Ms. Menchie F. Pena
Tel Nos. 527 18 75 or 527 82 11 to 19
fax No. 527 18 73
Email Address: hrmanager@singermanila.com.ph

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Chemonics International **(www.chemonics.com)** seeks experts in the fields of community and mid-scale infrastructure, export and investment promotion, business development, local governance, agri-business, education, workforce development, communications and the reintegration of ex-combatants for long and short-term assignments under an anticipated five-year USAID project in Mindanao, Philippines.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Five years experience in fields listed above. Experience working with USAID or other donors preferred.
- Advanced degree in agribusiness, business, law, governance, economics, public administration/finance or related field preferred.
- Five years of relevant experience in the Philippines or Southeast Asia. Experience in Mindanao preferred.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.

Project administration candidates are also sought to support project technical activities. Experience in the following fields is desired: operations management, communications, monitoring and evaluation, training, finance and accounting, grants management, procurement and information technology.

Qualifications:

- Five years experience working on donor projects in fields listed above.
- USAID related procurement and contracting experience preferred.
- Five years of relevant experience in the Philippines or Southeast Asia.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino.

We also recruit short-term consultants and specialists in free-port zone development, port operations and improvement and conflict resolution.

Please send a chronological CV, 3-4 references and a brief cover letter to philrecruit2@chemonics.com by March 9, 2007.
Specify position in email subject line.

Final candidates will be contacted for interviews

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : February 12, 2007
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Office of Surigao del Sur, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Conference	Date & Time of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Surigao del Sur	March 1, to March 8, 2007	March 12, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	March 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.	DepED Division Office of Surigao del Sur, Tandag, Surigao del Sur	(086) 211-3970

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Division of Surigao del Sur, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone number as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informally therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **TIOFILA G. CABATUAN**
DBAC Chairman
Surigao del Sur

(PDI–Feb. 18 & 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project
(National Project Management Office)
5/F Bonifacio Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : February 12, 2007
Loan No. : PH-P200

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, guidance and faculty rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Office of Guimaras, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Issuance of Bid Documents	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Conference	Date & Time of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Guimaras	February 26, to March 12, 2007	March 2, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.	March 22, 2007 at 1:30 p.m.	DepED Division Office of Guimaras, Jordan, Guimaras	(053) 237-1032

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Division of Guimaras, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Offices at the telephone number as identified in paragraph 2.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informally therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **MAURA F. PAIT**
DBAC Chairman
Guimaras

(PDI–Feb. 18 & 25, 2007)

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

INDIAN COMPANY MANUFACTURING STATIONERY AND ART MATERIAL PRODUCTS IS LAUNCHING A BRAND GLOBALLY. LOOKING FOR DISTRIBUTORS FOR THE PHILIPPINES. INTERESTED PARTIES PLEASE CONTACT WITH COMPANY DETAILS.

Contact no. +91-9811 855 855
Fax +91-112 811 6328
email: info@ambitiousindia.com

Seminar on winning in '07 polls set Feb. 27

A SEMINAR ON "Winning in the 2007 Elections" will be held the whole day on Feb. 27 at the Richville Hotel on Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Speakers are Reuben M. Yambot, a PR practitioner, author of a book on how to win in the elections and media adviser of then President Fidel V. Ramos and of the Lakas party; Albert Lim, PR consultant of "Operation Halalan 2001," a citizen-led information initiative; lawyer Rolando C. Ramirez, legal counsel of Partido ng Masang Pilipino and former presidential assistant for legal affairs and special concerns; and Antonio Concepcion, management consultant and political strategist.

Topics to be discussed include: Election Campaign Preparations/Planning, Effective Campaign Team and Platform, Making Your Campaign Strategy Work, How to Use ICT and Data Mining to Customize Your Campaign; Applying Sun Tzu's Art of War in Your Political Campaign; How to Counter Cheating; and Important Resource Information You Can Use.

Early birds or groups will get a 10 percent discount on the seminar fee. Buffet lunch and snacks will be served and coffee will be available the whole day.

Those interested in the seminar may call the Leading Edge Forum for Excellence at 578-9833, 531-0084 or CPs 0919-2299777, 0915-780437 or e-mail tritium@pldtsl.net or leffeine@yahoo.com.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
Science Garden, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100

P.R. No. WB-07-041,FOC-07-024, 026 & OD 06-0700
MTSAT, Met. Balloons, Radiosonde Transmiters
PAGASA Central Office
Source of Fund: DOST-GIA XII, Regular & PICWIN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered PhilGEPS suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project Supply and delivery of MTSAT, Meteorological Balloons, Radiosonde Transmiters
Location PAGASA Central Office, Science Garden Complex, Agham Rd., Dil., Q.C.

Qty/ Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Price Validity	Delivery Period
1 lot	MTSAT HRIT Ground Station System	P 2,750,000.00	90 cal days	60 c.d.
400 pcs	Meteorological Balloons @P2,100.00/pc	840,000.00		60 c.d.
82 sets	Radiosonde Transmitters, GPS VIZMARK II, Microsonde @P23,000.00/set	1,886,000.00		60 c.d.
1 unit	Weather-on-Demand SMS/MMS Server	300,000.00		7 c.d.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/ Time	Venue
1. Advertisement/Posting of IAEB	February 25 – March 5, 2007	
2. Issuance of Bid Req. & Documents	February 26 – March 5, 2007 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	General Services Section3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
3. Pre-bid Conference	March 6, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.	Amihan Conference Room2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
4. Submission of Eligibility Requirements, Envelope I & II	March 19, 2007 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	General Services Section3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
5. Opening of Eligibility Req. & Envelope I	March 19, 2007 11:00 a.m.	Amihan Conference Room2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
6. Opening of Bids – Envelope II	March 19, 2007 / 2:00 p.m.	
7. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification	March 20 – 26, 2007	
8. Notice of Award	April 2, 2007	

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of the approved budget per item in no case lower than P500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the Company's TIN.

The PAGASA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

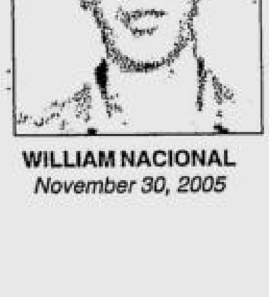
Approved by:

(Sgd.) **PRISCO D. NILO**
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

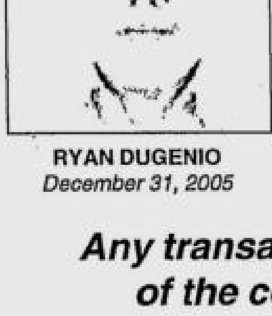
(PDI - Feb. 25, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

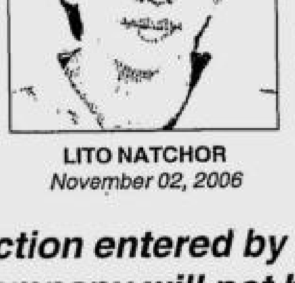
Public is hereby notified that the following personnel are no longer connected with WaterCare Marketing, (Phils.) effective on the date below.



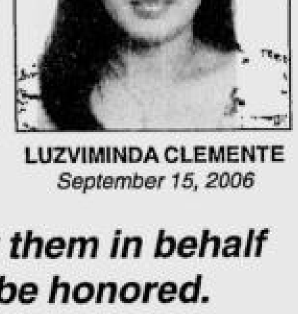
WILLIAM NACIONAL
November 30, 2005



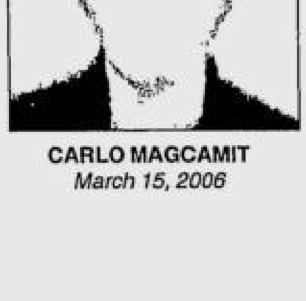
RYAN DUGENIO
December 31, 2005



LITO NATCHOR
November 02, 2006



LUZVIMINDA CLEMENTE
September 15, 2006



CARLO MAGCAMIT
March 15, 2006

Any transaction entered by them in behalf of the company will not be honored.

(PDI – February 25, 2007)

Congratulations!
Dr. ALLI ROMAN IAN PUEYO EZPELETA
for passing the recent
Physicians Licensure Examination
From your family, relatives and friends

JJLHS Batch '73 reunion

JUDGE JUAN LUNA HIGH School (JJLHS) Batch '73 Section Rizal will hold a reunion today, Feb. 25, 3 p.m. at Nicanor Pilares place, 14 Yakal st., Hubart Homes, Commonwealth Ave., Old Balara, Q.C.

Please join us and reminisce the good old days with our former classmates. This will also serve as our despedida to our classmate Sis. Marianita Teñoso who is leaving for Japan before the end of this month. For more info, call the following: Josie Santillan Jimenez - 480-5393, 233-2370, CP 0919-3647783 or Chito Celestial - 455-6202, CP 0918-4089611.

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638-0125 / 638-0114 / 892-0011 Loc. 8372, 8361, 8367, 8368
e-mail us at: esbabas@unionbankph.com or visit us at: www.unionbankph.com

RESIDENTIAL

PARANAQUE CITY	MIN BID
1. Resl Condo Unit w/ prkng slot Unit 1801, 18th flr. Chateau De Baie Condo, Roxas Blvd. cor. Airport Rd FA 144 (b'ween Baclaran Church & Uniwide C'tal)	4,700,000
2 Res'l Condo Unit w/ 2 parking slots Unit 108 Ground Floor Cataluna Bldg Bella Villa I, No. 5 Hamburg St., Merville Park Subd / FA 195	6,900,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
3 Condo. Unit w/ parking slot Unit 1509 Lansdale Tower Condo, Mo Ignacia Ave., Brgy. Paligsahan F A 67	2,900,000
4 H & Lot / # 269 M. Aquino St. Banlat Rd, Tandang Sora/LA 120/FA 191	1,500,000
5 3-Sty Thse/Unit R Sentosa Hts # 18 Sct Bayoran St, South Triangle LA 182 / FA 391 (between Sct Tuazon & T. Morato, near Hotel Rembrant) (with Lis Pendens)	7,200,000
6 Hse & Lot / # 19 Balabac St. Araneta Vill, Brgy. Dona Imelda LA-777, FA-348 * w/ Lis Pendens (near Quezon Inst & SM Centerpoint)	8,500,000
SAN JUAN – Addition Hills	**MIN BID**
Goldiane Exec. Hms., No. 268 Ortega cor. L. Mencias Sts.	
7 Res'l T'Hse / Unit G / LA-75 / FA-344	8,600,000
8. Res'l T'Hse / Unit F / LA-75 / FA-250	7,300,000
MANILA – Taft Ave., Malate	**MIN BID**
Burgundy T-Pacific Place Condo (across DLSU)	
9. Resl. Condo w/ prkng slot # 16, Unit 2310, 23-F / FA 37	2,800,000
10. Resl. Condo w/ prkng slot # 13, Unit 2309, 23-F / FA 32	2,400,000
11. Resl. Condo w/ prkng slot # 12, Unit 2210, 22-F / FA 37	2,800,000
LAS PINAS - Brgy. Talon-IV	**MIN BID**
12 Lot/L2 B1,Chrysanthemum St Hansuyin Vill / LA 361 (via Marcos Alvarez Ave & nr. SM Las Pinas)	1,500,000
MAKATI CITY - Kingswood Twr	**MIN BID**
P. Tamo cor V. Cruz Extn, near Shopwise (units are facing V. Cruz Extn & Mkti CBD)	
13. Condo /Unit 4-C, Twr B, 3BR, 2T/B & 1-Prkng slot FA 77/Prkng 12 5	3,000,000
14. Condo /Unit 14-E, Twr B, 3BR 2T/B, maid's rm. FA 77 / Prkng 12 5	3,425,000
# 1656 Penafrancia cor D. Olman Sts. Valenzuela	
15 Penthouse Condo w/ parking Kikusui Star Condo, Unit 5A / FA243	6,700,000
MUNTINLUPA – Alabang	**MIN BID**
San Jose Vill. (infront of Alabang Town Ctr)	
16 Lot / Lot 264 (Pcs 4946), St Joseph St / LA 526 * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,810,000
ANTIPOLO CITY (Lots)	**MIN BID**
17 Lot/L27 B3, Brentwood St,Pine City Exec Vill,Brgy Balimbing LA 120 (nr Antipolo town proper)	500,000
18. Res'l Lot / Lot 3 Block 6-A Salford St (nr cor Bristol St) Town & Country Est, Sta Cruz / LA-663	4,000,000
19. Lot 17 Blk 1 Beverly St, Sta Barbara 1, Luxury Estate Mission Hills, Brgy Colaique / LA 1,021 (near Pines City)	4,150,000
COTTONWOODS Heights (Lots only)	
20. L 23 B 10, Cottonwood Dr., LA 268	2,050,000
21. L 21 B 2, Birchwood St., LA 355	2,750,000
ANGONO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
22. Lot 6 Blk 2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic, Phase 3, Brgy Mababang Parang, Mission Hills (via Antipolo/nr Pines City) LA 540	2,000,000
CAVITE- Dasmarinas	**MIN BID**
23 Hse & Lot / No 36 Kalamansi Road Greenfield Heights Subd. Brgy. Sampaloc 2 (w/ Lis Pendens) LA 329/FA85	620,000
CAVITE - Molino III, Bacoor	**MIN BID**
Madelaine Place, Springville Subd.	
24 Lot / Lot 6 Blk 1 / LA 117	582,000
25. Lot / Lot 19 Blk 7 / LA 132	656,000
Central Phase 2, Springville Subd.	
26. Lot / L 5 B 1, near ClubHse / LA 232	1,636,000
Washington Manor, Springville Subd.	
27. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 2 / LA 154	1,020,000
CAVITE- Dasmarinas	**MIN BID**
28. 2-Sty w/ Rfdeck H&L/L5&6 B5 Agustina Village / LA 388 FA 939 (nr Velmaris Schl & St Angela Montesson)	5,700,000
CAVITE- Dasmarinas	**MIN BID**
ORCHARD Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club – Salitran	
FAIRWAY LOT	
29. Lot 46 Blk 50 / LA 630	2,394,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOT	
30 Lot 35 Blk 37 / LA 687	2,061,000
CAVITE – Carmona (Lot)	**MIN BID**
31 L 28 B 4, Ph 1, St Andrew St MANILA SOUTHWOODS,Cabilang Baybay LA 450 (near Gate 1) * w/ Court Decision in favor of Unionbank	3,005,000
32. L16 B1,Grand Cypress Rd / LA1,224	6,577,000
NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
# 529 Pag Asa, Daan Sarili (near LTO)	
33 Lot / Lot 3 A 4 / LA 1,847	401,000
34 Lot / Lot 3 A 3 / LA 1,848	401,000
BULACAN – Plaridel	**MIN BID**
Brgy. Lalangan – PLARIDEL HEIGHTS	
35. Cor. Lot / L 2 B 47, LA 355	1,243,000
36 Cor Lot / L 2 B 38, LA 411	1,439,000
BULACAN – Meycauayan	**MIN BID**
37. 2 Sty Resl H & L, L14 B8, La Brezza Subd., Brgy Pantok/ LA 75 / FA 48	820,000
BATANGAS – LAUREL	**MIN BID**
MTN. RIDGE, VILLA MERCEDS, Niyugan	
38 Resl Condo, Unit No B-1, FA 186	5,800,000
39. Resl Condo, Unit No B-2, FA 219	6,800,000
40 Lot 1-M Psd-04-081835, LA 1,000	8,100,000

RESIDENTIAL

LA MAREA - Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	MIN BID
nr Sn Pedro Toll Gate – Sn Antonio	
41. Lot / L 2 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 207	1,429,000
42. Lot / L 3 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 253	1,746,000
43. Lot / L 4 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 248	1,712,000
44. Lot / L 5 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 194	1,339,000
45 Lot / L 6 B 4, Ph 3 / LA 181	1,249,000
46. Lot / L 2 B 5, Ph 3 / LA 180	1,242,000
47 Lot / L 4 B 5, Ph 3 / LA 197	1,360,000
Colina Subd – Sn Pedro, LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
Brgy Sn.Antonio (nr Toll gate & Filipinas Golf)	
48. Lot / Lot 13 Blk 3 / LA 50	290,000
49. Lot / Lot 2 Blk 4 / LA 50	290,000
50. Cor. Lot / Lot 8 Blk 4 / LA 84	504,000
51. Cor. Lot / Lot10 Blk 3 / LA 92	552,000
LAGUNA	**MIN BID**
52 Residential Lot / Lot 20, Blk. 12 Apitong St, Ceris II Subd Brgy Canlubang, Calamba City / LA 480	1,810,000
BATANGAS	**MIN BID**
53 Res'l T'Hse / L24 B22, Bristle Cone St, Phase 1, CANYON WOODS Estate Brgy. San Gregorio Laurel / LA 200.FA 127	4,000,000
54 Cor Lot/L12 B2,Coral Shores Layug Subd, Bagong Silang Calatagan / LA 1,858 (near the beach)	5,800,000
TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
Tagaytay Highlands – PINE CREST CONDO	
55. Resl Condo Unit w/ prkng slot Unit 2310, 3rd flr. / FA 97 (w/o shares)	7,015,000
56. Resl Condo Unit w/ prkng slot Unit 2309, 3rd flr., / FA 97 (w/o shares)	8,050,000
57. Lot / Lot 2B1,Tagaytay-Calamba Rd, San Francisco / LA 1,171 (over looking Taal Lake across Divine of Charity)	11,000,000
58. Lot 8, Tagaytay Calamba Rd. Tolentino West / LA 2,156 *w/ Lis Pendens / over looking Taal Lake	20,000,000
TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
59. 2 Sty H&L / L 7 B 18, Family Park Homes, Brgy Cut-Cut II San Miguel / LA 62 / FA 40	230,000

COMM'L. / AGRI'L.
(SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL)

NORZAGARAY, BULACAN	MIN BID
60 Agricultural Lot Provincial Rd, Brgy Bitungol (near Brgy Hall) TLA 4,072	1,500,000
MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
61 Comm'l Bldg/1760 Evangelista Cor Hen F Macabulos St, (beside Unioil) Brgy Bangkal/LA550 FA 758	26,000,000
62 Ofc Condo w/ 5 prkng slot / 14th/F Trident Condo, 312 Gil Puyat Ave Salcedo Village / FA 521 (entire floor)	32,000,000
# 1656 Penafrancia cor D. Olman Sts. Valenzuela Condo w/ prkng/Kikusui Star (on lease)	
63. Condo, Unit G-A / FA 93	3,100,000
64. Condo Unit G-B / FA 85	2,800,000
Millenium Plaza– Mktl. Ave cor Eduque St	
65 Condo Unit / 5/F, FA 261	17,765,000
MUNTINLUPA CITY	**MIN BID**
66 Comml Condo Unit/Unit 1908, 19th flr, Richville Corporate Tower Alabang-Zapote Rd, Madrigal Bus Park, Alabang / FA-59	3,700,000
QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
IBM Plaza,Eastwood City-Beside Citibank	
67 Office Condo w/ parking Unit 8-A (Libis) FA 166	8,000,000
68. Building / Lots 8 & 9 Blk S 27 Timog Ave LA 1,380 FA 1,500 (nr Rembrant Hotel) (on monthly Lease)	70,000,000
69. W'house / 185 Roosevelt Ave SFDM / LA 5,641 / FA 3,454	140,000,000
LIAN, BATANGAS	**MIN BID**
70 Agricultural Lot Lian-Calatagan Prov Rd, Brgy Putting Kahoy / LA 654,998	140,700,000
PASAY CITY	**MIN BID**
71. Comm'l Condo / Office Space 18th Floor (entire) EGI Rufino Plaza, Taft Ave cor Gil Puyat Ave / TFA 1,653	57,032,000
PASIG CITY	**MIN BID**
72 Commercial / Res'l Lot/ Pcn-13-000159 C Raymundo Ave Cor Windsor St, Eastside Manor, Brgy Maybunga (on lease) /LA 1,893	26,200,000
PARANAQUE CITY	**MIN BID**
Across Chinese Temple along Coastal Rd. Tambo	
73 Lot / L1 B5, Asiaworld City LA 1,559 (near Manna Baytown)	33,700,000
74. Lot / L2 B5, Asiaworld City LA 1,400 (near Manna Baytown)	32,200,000
VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
75. Indl Lot w/ 2 Whses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot 1075 D 1 C, Plastic City # 6 T Santiago St, Canumay-West / LA 9,923 / FA 7,096	39,703,000
76 Industrial Lot / Lot 382 C Plastic City Housing,Canumay LA 25,796 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts)	45,000,000
NUEVA ECIJA	**MIN BID**
Cabanatuan City, # 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili	
77 Agri Lot / Lot 3B / LA 37,041	2,366,000
78. Warehouse & Office Lot 2H / LA 2,260 / FA 580	5,098,000
CAVITE	**MIN BID**
Tanza, Bo. Tres Cruces nr Transville Subd, via Trece Martires	
79. Agri Lot / Lot-2931 (Rs-1273) LA 40,127 * w/ Adverse Claim & No Right Of Way	5,000,000
TARLAC CITY – Poblacion	**MIN BID**
Panganiban St. - across PLDT	
80. Lot / Lot 4 A 1 / LA 373	5,390,000
81. Lot / Lot 4 A 2 / LA 373	5,390,000

JUST BRING P20,000 SHOW MONEY(CASH OR MC) TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction.

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AYALA MANPOWER SVS LOW OFFICE FEE TRUSTED!!! MAID,YAYA,BOY,COOK, CGIVER INTL COOK CALL 2513032 #09182563263

PERSONAL

ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTANT 1.REGISTRATION OF BOOKS 2.COMPANY FORMATION 3.SETUP BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS 4.BOOKKEEPING 5.FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 6.TAX PREPARATION 453-0294 09175281769

ARCHITECTS

ARCH'T 2D/3D (0927)9194639

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Drct Maid Yaya intlcook Driver Boy 7282239

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

GOOD MAID YAYA DRIVER 438-4809

Tstdmaids Yaya Cgver Male cook boy 7281637

YA'MAIDLAVAD'RV'RCOOK 7288610

YAYA COOK H'MAID DRIVER 8969219

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2 STOREY HSE LOT 200SQM XAVIERVILLE SUB PH.I LOYOLA HEIGHTS 4BR 2TB SERV'S QTR PATIO T9222660 M-F 8AM-5PM

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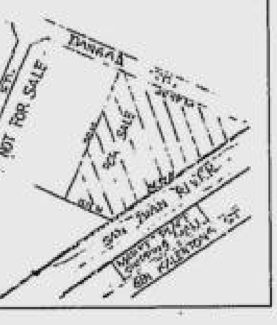
CLASSIFICATION: Commercial lot
CONTACT PERSON: James
Tel. Nos. 715-7893
713-6739
Cell: 0928-7162216



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2BR SPACIOUS A.Luna SnJuan 10TH/MO CallSAVELL 6761603

APT 4 RENT 30K PALM VILLAGE 8133568 8138420

NR DLSU T 8992148

PROJ. 4 2stry 2BR 4770319

Teachers Vill 2sty 2BR 2TB w/ grge P10T 9230184

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U/D 7T NARRA TDO 2528553

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1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

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1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/out taking car 7262780

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Marai Piano 30T 9370139

Marai Piano 30T 9370139

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Spouses Isidro and Rosario Orendain was extrajudicially settled with absolute sale among their heirs as per Doc. no. 461;Page no. 93; Book no. X;Series of 2007 under Notary Public Atty. Ambrocio E. Pagtalunan of Manila
(PDI Feb. 11,18 & 25'07)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MA. LOIDA SARINAS LAPIÑA HAS BEEN EXTRA JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIR AS PER DOC#142;PAGE#29;BOOK#XVIII; SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. LEONARDO G. MEDINA OF BACOOR CAVITE.
(PDI-FEB. 25, MAR. 4&11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELIZABETH T. FAMINI was self-adjudicated among her heirs as per Doc#482 Page#97 Book#LXIX Series of 2007 of Notary Public Franklin G. Abadilla of Marikina City.
(PDI - February 25, 2007)

Noticed is hereby given that the Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate and Partition of the Estate of LUZ N. PREPUSE has been settled among her heirs as Doc. No. 313, Page No. 063,Book No. CXI,Series of 2006,before Notary Public Atty. Dante O. Cacho of Pasig City on November 7, 2006.(PDI-Feb. 11,18&25,2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

MERALCO-A CERTIFICATE NO. 142121A-200 SHARES; NO. 222755A -100 SHARES UNDER THE NAME OF KATHRYN C. CHUA WERE DECLARED LOST, IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED W/ IN 1YR NEW CERTIFICATES WILL BE ISSUED.
(PDI- Feb. 25 Mar. 4 & 11, 2007)

MERALCO-A CERTIFICATE NO. 142212A - 200 SHARES; NO. 222833A -100 SHARES UNDER THE NAME OF CHUA SIO LON WERE DECLARED LOST, IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED W/ IN 1YR NEW CERTIFICATES WILL BE ISSUED.
(PDI- Feb. 25 Mar. 4 & 11, 2007)

07 URVAN
ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776
7964377
09213497170

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the Manila Southwoods Golf Club Stock Cert# B-0984 issued to PETER J. DOREY was lost.If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 25,Mar.4& 11,2007

PERSONAL

Dear Holy Spirit Thank You from Gemma P. Santos

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit Thou make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal, You who give me the Divine Gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the maternal desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Pray for 3 consecutive days without stating your wish. After the 3rd day, your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it maybe. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has granted. JAG

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join in prayer as we remember

Mrs. Therese Khalaf

(Mother of Michel Khalaf, Deputy President & COO of Philamlife)

who joined our Creator on January 17, 2007.

On this 40th day of her demise, we request our friends and associates to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

VIRGILIO GARIBAY SALDAJENO

Colonel (Ret.), Philippine Constabulary

January 31, 1930 – February 20, 2007

Virgilio peacefully joined our Creator at home at the age of 77. He was a loving husband and caring father.

His wife **Gloria**; children, **Mary Ann**, **Victor** & **Amy**, **Vicki** & **Ron**, **Ging**, **Nonoy** & **Claire**, **Peewee** & **Rocky**, and **Vanessa**; grandchildren Duke, Mark, Angelo, Kathryn, Nico, Nina, Ria, Diego, and Gio and brothers & sisters-in-law request everyone to join our prayers for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness with the Lord.

His remains are at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. A Memorial Mass will be held today, February 25, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. and a Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. Interment will follow at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, at 12:00 noon.

"Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the Lord has been good to me."
(Psalm 116:7)

Message of Thanks

*We, **ART & VIVIAN**, the parents, and **KIM, THEA & ALEX**, the sisters of*

BEN ANTONIO "CALEB" V. DE LA PEÑA

who joined our Creator on February 1, 2007, and, now rests in the warmth and embrace of the Lord,

would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to relatives and friends who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us, and who, in countless ways, condoled and comforted us in our time of sorrow.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Jose Virata Faylona

of Imus, Cavite

peacefully joined our Lord on February 21, 2007 at the age of 77.

His loving wife, **Nelinda**; only daughter **Josefina** and **Jose Sabater**; grandchildren **Josef Cirilo**, **Jess Christian**, and **Juliann Chriselle**; brother **Benjamin**; sisters **Luningning** and **Amor**; relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Sapinoso Grand Chapel at Col. Elises St., Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on February 28, 2007 at the St. Mary Cemetery in Imus, Cavite after the Celebration of Victory with Jesus Faith Christian Fellowship at La Funeraria Sapinoso Grand Chapel at 12:00 nn and a Holy Mass at the Imus Cathedral at 2:30 p.m.

OUR DEARLY BELOVED PAPA

ERIBERTO ESGUERRA FLORES

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 23, 2007 at the age of 85.

His loving wife **Belen**; Children **Elsa**, **Ellen** and **Estella**; children-in-law **Willie** and **Simon**; grandchildren **Elena Joyce** and **Jonathan**, **Bernard James** and **Melody**, **Wilbert**, **Gaylor**, **Allen**, **William** and **Kristina Eileen**; great-grandchildren **John Ezekiel**, **Juliana Ellisse** and **James Maverick**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

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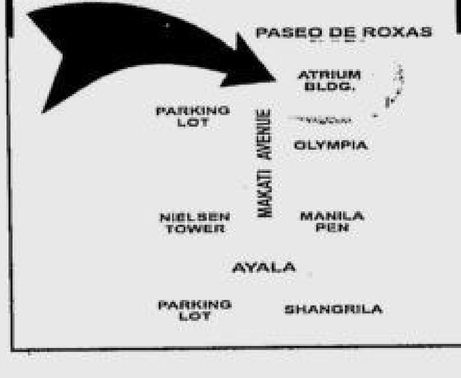
811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW:
528-0213;
527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219;
635-0220



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Contact Persons:
Emy, Tin², Bheng & Carlo

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that a Warrant of Arrest has been issued by the Regional Trial Court, Br. 142, Makati City, against **KHRISTINE MICHELLE D. MENDOZA** whose picture appears herewith, in connection with Criminal Case No. 06-1795-97: Estafa thru Falsification of Commercial Document. For any information leading to the lawful arrest of **KHRISTINE MICHELLE D. MENDOZA**, please contact Mr. Antonio Aguirre at 857-5986 or Atty. Jasper Dela Cruz at 893-6170.

(PDI - Feb. 25, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: February 25, 2007
Contract ID No.: **SP-127-IN-01 to 03**
World Bank Loan No.:4446PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction/Rehabilitation of Health Facilities (Package A, B, and C)***. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The Province of ***Surigao del Sur*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the:

Package A:	*Renovation of Madrid District Hospital*
Package B:	*Construction of Tandag Rural Health Unit, San Miguel Birthing Facility, and Aras-asan Barangay Health Station*
Package C:	*Construction of Two-Room Isolation Building and Renovation of Lianga District Hospital, Renovation of Hinatuan District Hospital, Construction of Bislig District Hospital Extension, Construction of Lingig Birthing Facility.*

3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***February 26- March 28, 2007*** during office hours ***from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm*** at the ***Sub-Project Management Office, Provincial Health Office Building, Capitol Hills, Tandag, Surigao del Sur***, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninety (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Php 162,000.00 for Package A; Php 318,400.00 for Package B; and Php 249,600.00 for Package C*** in form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the BAC Chairman/Provincial Administrator, Capitol Hills, Tandag, Surigao del Sur on or before March 28, 2007 at 10:00 am*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. The **Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is:

• **Package A**	-	Six Million Four Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Ten pesos and 40/100 **(Php 6,447,610.40)**
• **Package B**	-	Twelve Million Seven Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety pesos and 83/100 **(Php 12,733,790.83)**
• **Package C**	-	Nine Million Nine Hundred Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five pesos and 71/100 **(Php 9,983,775.71)**

6. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***10:00 A.M. March 15, 2007*** at the ***Sub-Project Management Office, Provincial Health Office Building, Capitol Hills, Tandag, Surigao del Sur.***

(Sgd.) **JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 25, 2007)

OBITUARIES

DIOKNO DEL ROSARIO MANLAVI

HISTORIAN & WRITER of Cuyo, Palawan
December 26, 1921 – February 22, 2007

Has now joined his loving wife, Milagros, and peacefully rests in the love, peace & joy of God & the Blessed Mother.

His loving children **Evelyn** and **Rudy**; **Lorna** and **Ernie** (†); **Elizabeth** and **Tony**; **Roberto** and **Gigi**; **Ma. Lourdes** and **Jun**; **Jocelyn** and **Emy**; **Josephine** and **Danny**; **Milagros** and **Nick**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; sisters **Mauring** and **Laling**; in-laws, **Ester**, **Isabel**, **Elpidio**, **Julian, Jr.** and **Fe** request the pious readers for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Premier II Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2007
at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ARTURO P. ORBIGOSO

Ex-Councilor
of Baliwag, Bulacan

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 24, 2007.

His loving wife **Flor**: children **Anne** & **Coco**
Vangie, **Annaliza** (†) **Benjie** & **Sheryl**, **Lyca** & **Sam**
Connie & **Migs**, **Florence**, **Aljohn**: grandchildren
Earth, Winona, Den-den, Mark, Migs, Mat & Loraine.
His relatives and friends request everyone to join our prayers,
for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness with the Lord.

His remains lie at Purok II, #086 Brgy. Piel, Baliwag, Bulacan
(0446730088) Interment will be on Wednesday,
February 28, 2007, 1:00 p.m.
at Gateway to Heaven Baliwag, Bulacan.

We design OBIT for free.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT
CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

People, Events & Products

Students and a solar car take the spotlight at 2007 Ford Day

YOUNG AMBASSADORS ON A MISSION TO promote road safety. The first ever solar car poised to preserve the environment and lessen our fuel dependency. Both were star attractions at the recently concluded Ford Day 2007.

An annual event open to the media and general public, the 2007 Ford Day celebrations at the Fort Open Grounds in Taguig was a whole day affair filled with lots of lessons on road safety and environmental protection, especially via the use of Ford's Flex Fuel Vehicles or FFVs.

Both road safety and promoting the use of eco-friendly vehicles are advocacies pioneered by Ford in the local automotive industry and the country.

The Ford Road Safety Youth Council (RSYC) has been fearless in promoting Ford's commitment to Road Safety. Young as they are, they are as committed in creating awareness and appreciation of road safety among the youth today. Studies have shown that a good number of road accidents are caused by young drivers who are either too eager to get behind the wheel of a car, or severely inexperienced when it comes to safe and defensive driving.

This troop of brave youngsters is currently composed of 35 Core Council members and more than 800 RSYC members from 29 schools such as Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of Makati, Don Bosco, UP Diliman and San Beda College Alabang, to name a few.

During the induction ceremonies at Ford Day, Vic Rosales, council chair, presented their plans to continue the activities the Council has started such as the Responsibility in Driver Education (Ride) Program and Inter-School Road Safety Project. The Council also introduced a new way of promoting Road Safety via an online newsletter and their very own RSYC website.

The event also saw the awarding of Ford's Road Safety Interschool Project competition. Don Bosco Technical College Mandaluyong won first place with its entry titled "Road Safety is Shared Responsibility" project. The second place was awarded to Muntinlupa National High School's "Road Safety is a Team Effort" project. Both schools were awarded P10,000 and P7,000 respectively on top of a P100,000 project grant. The grants money will be used to implement the project components submitted by these schools all aimed to improve road safety within their school premises. This competition was opened to all schools that have undergone the Ride Seminar and provides an opportunity for the students to take a more active role in promoting road safety in their respective schools.

"Road safety is another great project am proud to say that Ford has truly nurtured and cultivated from 2004. From setting up a seed fund of P1,000 for every Ford and Mazda vehicle sold, conducting Ride sessions in schools, to promoting the use of Child Safety seats, to the introduction of the first batch of Ford's Road Safety Youth Council officers, we have made some significant strides as a company to make our youth more responsible drivers, and our roads much, much safer," said Richard Baker, president of Ford Group Phils.

Another highlight of Ford Day 2007 was the unveiling of the first ever solar car in the Philippines. De La Salle University (DLSU) Manila was the lead proponent in coming up with a breakthrough vehicle that runs through the power of sunlight.

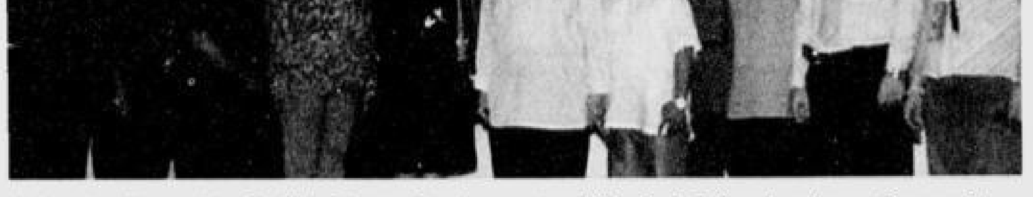
Ford with its partners, Pilipinas Shell, San Miguel, Sunpower, Philippine Airlines and Ventus are part of this project. The solar car, dubbed "Sinag", will be entered at the World Solar Challenge in Australia towards the last quarter of the year.

The Technical Working Team is composed of DLSU Faculty Members engineer Rene Fernandez, engineer Martin Ernesto Kalaw, engineer Anthony Escobar, engineer Jose Antonio Catalan, and engineer Isidro Marfori III.

The 2007 Ford Day celebration dubbed "Ford Day 2007: Save Lives, Save Earth." was a venue to strengthen Ford's commitment to road safety and entrust its advocacy to care for the environment. Ford adds another first-in-the-country contribution when it rolled out the Flex Fuel Vehicle (FFV) program in April 2006.

Various activities also took place namely: Kiddie art activities such as Ford Ranger Drawing Contest and Save the World Collage, Kiddie Movie Marathon, Focus Victory Lap RC Racing, Eco-Driven Adventure, 2nd Ride Quiz Bee, Teen Driving Lessons by Tuason Racing School (TRS), test drives, live performances from Unity and Fat Sessions bands and raffled prizes were enjoyed by the whole family.

Ford Day 2007 also brought together its partners namely Pilipinas Shell, Tuason Racing School (TRS) and Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP), San Miguel Corp and Land Rover.



ANNUAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

José Rizal University, Department of Economics, in partnership with the Council of Economics Educators (Cecon) organized and hosted the 'Annual Economic Outlook 2007' on Jan. 26. Photo shows (from left): Dr. Mary Jane Azurin, Cecon secretary (St. Scholastica's College [SSC]), professor Floranie Alfonso, board member (Cam. Sur State Agricultural College [CSSAC]), Dr. Marie France Nuñez, Cecon auditor (CSSAC), professor Michael Batu, Cecon Pio (De La Salle University-Dasmariñas), Dr. Gudel Saporna, Cecon president (Divine Word College of Calapan), professor Wilhelmina I. Neis, JRU Dean of the Collage Division, Hon, Dr. Armand V. Fabella, JRU chairman of the board of trustees and former Secretary of Education, Dr. Ruben M. Nayve, Jr, Cecon chairman emeritus (SSC), Dr. George N. Manzano (guest speaker), Faculty of the University of the and the Pacific), Director Dennis M. Arroyo (guest speaker) of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), Dr. Ahmed N.Y. Meandahawi, JRU Economics Department chair, Dr. Ramin Benedicto Marcelino, Cecon VP internal (San Beda College), professor Carmencita Lao, Cecon treasurer (Holy Angel University). At the back: is Dr. O'Land C. Nwoke, assistant dean for professional studies, JRU and Theodore U. Calaguas, VP for financial affairs, JRU.

SHELL GRANTS ENDOWMENT TO ADMU

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp granted an endowment fund of P1.5 million to Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) for the establishment of Shell Philippines Endowment Fund to provide scholarship assistance to deserving science majors of the school. As part of the donation, Pilipinas Shell will support the tuition costs of qualified undergraduates enrolled in the School of Science and Engineering. The scholar may enjoy the tuition support for a maximum of 4-5 years, depending on the scholar's science program of study for as long he is able to demonstrate a continuing need for financial support and meets the academic performance requirements. In photo are Edgar O. Chua, president, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp (second from right) shaking hands with Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, SJ, president, Ateneo de Manila University (second from left) after turning over the deed of donation to Ateneo de Manila University. Also in photo are Romeo B. De Guzman, Pilipinas Shell vice president for external affairs (far right), Miguel Jose C. Valencia, director, Ateneo Alumni Association (3 rd from left), Dr. Ma. Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, vice president for the Loyola Schools (2nd from left), and Fr. Nemesio S. Que, SJ, director, Office of Admission and Aid, Loyola Schools (far left).

COCOLIFE, PATIO PACIFIC INK AGREEMENT

PATIO PACIFIC
COCOLIFE
FREEDOM TO LIVE YOUR LIFE

In support of the tourism industry, Cocolife and Patio Pacific Boracay recently forged an agreement that aims to boost confidence in the tourism industry. Starting January 2007, Patio Pacific Boracay welcomes its guests with a free personal accident insurance coverage underwritten by Cocolife, the country's first ISO Life Insurance Company. Providing guests with personal accident insurance coverage is a perfect complement to Patio Pacific's triple A amenities and services. This initiated effort hopes to increase awareness of tourism safety measures as advocated by Patio Pacific President and 24th Reserve Airlift and Tactical Support Commander Charlie Uy. Signing the agreement were (seated from left) Patio Pacific president Charlie Uy and Cocolife president lawyer Alfredo C. Tumacder Jr. Witnessing the agreement signing were (standing from left) Cocolife business development senior manager Edward Robin Gonzales, Patio Pacific marketing officer Glaiza Franco, Patio Pacific sales and marketing manager Katherine Mercado, Cocolife VP for group marketing Ferdinand N. Santos, Cocolife group business development assistant manager Maricar Miranda and Cocolife SVP for sales and marketing Elmo A. Nobleza.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Siemens, Infoblox team up

SIEMENS NETWORKS AND INFOBLOX IN Santa Clara, California (USA), have concluded a partnership covering services for Internet addresses that allows mobile and fixed-network operators to securely and reliably resolve domain names into IP addresses. Siemens is thus extending its product portfolio to include so-called domain name resolution (DNS) products from Infoblox and is offering the accompanying consulting, integration and maintenance services.

More and more telecommunications networks are connected to the Internet, for example through roaming with foreign carriers or connections to service partners for mobile applications or to the voice networks of corporate customers. This requires reliable and secure DNS services for the network operation that primarily convert domain names such as www.siemens.com into IP addresses. This can be compared to a telephone directory that resolves the subscribers' names into their telephone numbers. For these identity-driven networks (IDN), Siemens integrates and certifies the DNS appliances from Infoblox into its core network solutions for telephone carriers and Internet Service Providers, for example for UMTS and GPRS networks or for Voice-over-IP (VoIP) infrastructures. Thanks to hardened operating systems, the DNS platforms are secure and reliable, and offer optimum protection from intrusion into the telephone networks.

Customers appreciate this: Siemens has already sold DNS appliances from Infoblox to more than 40 mobile operators in almost 30 countries. Through the new cooperation contract, Siemens is extending its portfolio for DNS services and offering a series of additional services. These cover auditing, consulting, concept design for the infrastructure, integration and training of employees. By request, Siemens can also take over operation of the network's entire security infrastructure and covers all the critical areas surrounding network security.

The DNS appliances from Infoblox offer real advantages: They are easy to install and maintain, and are a reliable, scalable and simple to administer alternative to conventional DNS solutions. If a connection or individual units break down, the service is kept going, supported by highly developed backup and disaster recovery functions.

ADESTE FIDELES: AN OUTSTANDING CONCERT

Adeste Fideles, the Christmas concert staged in the Santuario de San Antonio last Dec. 14, was indeed an outstanding concert in every sense of the word. Not only did it stand out in the beauty of its setting, the gloriousness of its music, and the magnificence of its presentation but in the achievement of its goal of P1 million for the churches of Bicol. The beauty of its setting was matched only by the gloriousness of its sounds produced by renowned Filipino musical artists such as tenors Otoniel Gonzaga, Frankie Aseniero and George Yang and sopranos Rachelle Gerodias, Camille Lopez and Karla Gutierrez. The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Rodel Colmenar helped to exuberantly proclaim the great news of the birth of Christ. The melodious stirring voices of over 170 singers from participating choir groups: Coro de San Antonio, Coro Tomasino, Chiang Kai Shek College Youth Choir and the Philippine Children Chorus from Mandaluyong - added to the zest, joy and majesty of this spiritual-cum-musical extravaganza. But what may be the most outstanding feature of Adeste Fideles is its financial success in enabling the producers of the show - Management Association of the Philippines, Santuario de San Antonio and Credit Suisse - to come up with its hoped-for goal of a million pesos (P1.2 million to be exact) for the much needed reconstruction of the churches of Bicol that had been devastated by three succeeding typhoons last year. Shown during the turnover of the proceeds are (from left): Dellie Yap, Henrie Santos, Mimi Morelos, Melon Silverio, Marixi Prieto, Eddie Yap, Fr. Tony Rosales, Rafael Hechanova, Steve Lopez, Carmelito Ascalon, Millete Ocampo, Peachy Maramba and Mike Yuzon.

MAKATI AS HEALTH AND WELLNESS DESTINATION

In its bid to develop Makati City as a Health and Wellness Destination for both local and foreign visitors, the Makati City Government and the Makati City Tourism Foundation discussed plans with various stakeholder groups recently, including the organizers of the First Philippine Medical Tourism (PMT) Congress, Expo and Grand Launch. Shown in photo, from left: Beautiphil director, Emi Padla, Makati Medical Center director for communications, sales and marketing Dr. Ernie Santos, RxPinoy president and CEO Edy Uy, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Honors Inc managing director Joyce Socao-Alumno, Beautiphil managing director Vinchu Lapid, and DOT Director, Bureau of Domestic Tourism Cynthia Lazo.

WENDY'S FAMILY EMBRACES HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

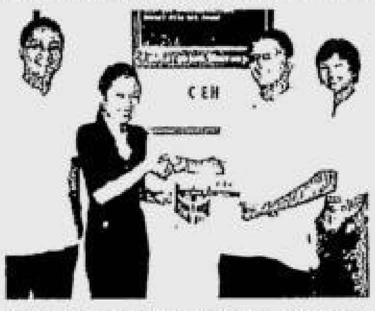
Wenphil Corp president Yvette Pardo-Orbeta believes that it's never too late to start Muay, and never too early, either. One of the best things to come out of Muay was the experience of having her whole family working out together. Juggling work, and being a mom and a wife, keeps Yvette's day hectic. Since the fastfood business is a very competitive industry, Yvette counts on Muay for a good physical workout. Wendy's understands the health and wellness concerns of its consumers and is fully committed to promoting them. At Wendy's, customers can enjoy good, healthy fare at a reasonable price without putting their health in danger. 'We always gave priority to our customer's health and we make sure we serve them high quality, fresh, and nutritious food,' Yvette added. Notably, Wendy's has always been on the forefront of advocating Muay as a sports program and assists our athletes an opportunity to experience Muay competition in the national and international scope, as well as supporting Muay's projects and activities in the country.

ABBOTT NUTRITION, HEALTHWAY JOIN HANDS

TAL NUTRITION CARE
Memorandum of Agreement

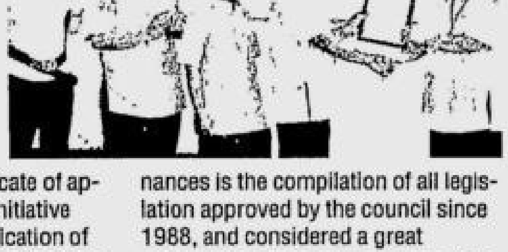
Abbott Nutrition and Healthway Medical have agreed to join hands to provide better and more extensive health and nutrition information to Filipino consumers under the Total Nutrition Care program. The program will provide free services like fat analysis, blood glucose screening, nutrition counseling by registered dietitians, Ensure and Glucerna SR sampling, Home Care Solution membership as well as leaflets and brochures on the values of nutrition in all Healthway branches. Shown during the signing of the memorandum of agreement for the Total Nutrition Care project are (from left) Rene Bastl, Abbott Nutrition general manager, Maricar Yabyabin, Abbott Nutrition marketing manager, Amy Yuga, Abbott finance director, and Carmi de Leon, Healthway Medical sales and marketing director.

ATENEO CCE ON ETHICAL HACKING, CYBER SECURITY



In response to the demand of the information communication technology (ICT) sector, the Ateneo Center for Continuing Education (CCE) in co-operation with EC Council, Malaysia, is launching Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI) as a continuing program of Ethical Hacking and Countermeasures (CEH) that was successfully conducted last year. For more information, a special briefing will be held on March 1, at 1 to 5 p.m. at the Ateneo Rockwell Campus. Interested attendees may register for free at www.cce.ateneo.edu or contact Ann Follosco at 894-4868 or Sharon Llanes at 830-2043. Photo shows: Glenn San Luis, executive director of Ateneo CCE, Ruth Rodriguez, channel manager of EC-Council Academy, Chino Rodriguez, CEH, CEI and Iris Laureola, senior program development officer of Ateneo CCE.

BARANGAY GRATITUDE



Mandaluyong City Barangay Chairmen led by its president lawyer Juan Amon (2nd from right), presents to city council Majority Floor Leader Councilor Rene Sta. Maria (right), a certificate of appreciation for the latter's initiative and leadership in the publication of the Book of Ordinances 1988 - 2005 which greatly contributed to the efficiency of the enforcement of law in Mandaluyong. The Book of Ordinances is the compilation of all legislation approved by the council since 1988, and considered a great achievement in local legislation. Also in photo are (from left) Barangay Captains Belle Solayao, Ferdie Baretto and Gene Pascual

J. Romero & Associates scores multiple wins at Araw Values Awards

SCORING MULTIPLE VICTORIES at the Araw Values Awards for its Branded Communications entries is held very dearly by all-Filipino advertising agency, J. Romero & Associates.

"Our victory at the Araw Values Awards is a testament to our commitment to our advertisers' publics," Andre Kahn, J. Romero & Associates president said. "We hold them even dearer as they were all branded communications materials, which is quite uncommon in this age of commercialization, when the industry usually lose sight of the fact that we are still responsible for promoting values to our publics," Kahn added.

At the Araw Values Awards, J. Romero & Associates went home triumphant in its bid to get nods for its entries, all branded communications materials, scoring 9 medals out of its 13 entries. Of these, 7 were bronzes and 2 were silvers.

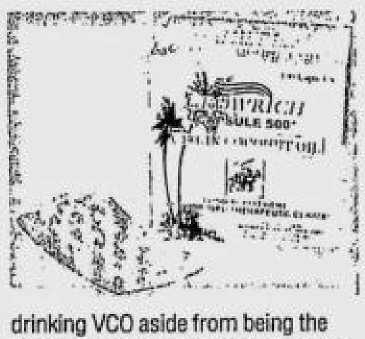
J. Romero & Associates won Bronzes for its Philippine National Bank multimedia campaign "Heroes" (Love of Country and Respect for National Customs and Traditions); Dunkin' Donuts 30-seconder Christmas campaign Radio Commercial (Love of Country and Respect for National Customs and Traditions); Manila North Tollways Corp 45-seconder "Advocacy" TV Commercial (Respect and Care for Human Life and Dignity and the Rights of all); Manila North Tollways Corp 30-seconder "Old & New" TV Commercial (Respect and Care for Human Life and Dignity and the Rights of all).

Other Bronze medal wins include the Manila North Tollways Corp 30-seconder "Safety Campaign" radio commercial (Respect for Law and Authority and the Promotion of Self-Discipline); Manila North Tollways Corp "Yabangan" Ambient Advertising (Love of Country and Respect for National Customs and Traditions); and Ortigas & Company Ltd Partnership "Tiendesitas Launch" Print campaign (Love of Country and Respect for National Customs and Traditions).

Winning Silver medals are Philippine National Bank "Heroes" 45-seconder TV/Cinema commercial (Love of Country and Respect for National Customs and Traditions and Reverence for Family Unity and the inviolability of marriage); and Manila North Tollways Corp "Rediscover" Ambient Advertising (Respect and Care for Human Life and Dignity and the Rights of all and (Respect for Law and Authority and the Promotion of Self-Discipline).

ProductFiles

Back to basics with pure VCO



VIRGIN COCONUT OIL, WHEN processed properly, contains MCFAs which are also found in human mothers' breast milk. Drinking virgin coconut oil gives you the energy, protects your immune system and has other health benefits - all of which an infant gets when he drinks his mothers breast milk. However, most Filipinos have a hard time drinking virgin coconut oil in its liquid form. Growrich Virgin Coconut Oil in 500mg capsules is the easiest way of drinking VCO aside from being the surest way you can benefit from the goodness of VCO. Growrich Virgin Coconut Oil 500mg is available in Mercury Drug and other leading drugstores nationwide. For inquiries and concerns text 0927-2040480.

Clara Int'l now in the Philippines

CLARA INTERNATIONAL HAS FINALLY ARRIVED in the Philippines with its synergistically formulated all natural skin care products that is both safe and effective. Clara unleashes nature's potent force by using the latest in beauty technology on all-natural ingredients. Whatever your skin type and age group, Clara has a wide range of skincare products that will compliment you. Clara Herbal Skincare Products are 100 percent free from alcohol and animal by-products or derivatives. With over 29 years of beauty expertise, Clara International has one of the biggest beauty chains all over the world. If you want to have that natural glow and exude refreshing beauty visit Clara International at Unit-S Sunshine Blvd Plaza, 1328 Quezon Ave. Corner Scout Santiago Quezon City or call 374-6154/374-0974/374-6085.

With Avacor, baldness is not an option

IS THERE A CURE FOR BALDNESS? Presently, there are very effective treatments that work very well if used properly. You don't have to accept going bald. Avacor represents the latest treatment available for patterned (common) baldness. The Avacor approach consists of a Physician's Topical Solution, a Scalp Detoxifying Shampoo to cleanse the scalp, and a proprietary blend of natural organic herbal Nutricaps to promote a healthy hair follicle. Avacor even has formulations for both men and women, and the products have been proven to contain no major side effects. If you are experiencing excessive hair loss or premature baldness, do something about it now. Turn to Avacor, and experience dramatic results in as little as two months. For inquiries, you may call: 410-0844/0922-8282267.

ePLDT
ePDS
ePDS, Inc. and Manila Water Company

EPDS, MWC INK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

ePDS Inc, a subsidiary of premier ICT company ePLDT engaged in business process outsourcing and printing services, recently signed an agreement with Manila Water Company (MWC), one of the country's leading water utility company, for the efficient and prompt printing of MWC's billing statements. Shown in the photo are: (from left) Tettet M. Tangco, ePDS Inc general manager; May Antonia Z. Sinnung, ePDS Inc president; Sherisa P. Nuesa, Manila Water Company chief financial officer; and Griselda T. Capa, Manila Water Company senior manager for information and communication technology.

MARKET! MARKET! DESIGNATED IT CENTER

Market! Market! has been designated as an Information Technology Center by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through Proclamation No. 1197. Market! Market! is attracting more BPO/call center locators given the tax incentives with Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) accreditation. The formal signing with Peza and Station Square East Commercial Corp was done Jan. 17. Market! Market! is open on Monday to Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Fridays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service transport terminal is available for your convenience. For more information, call concierge at tel. no. 886-7519. Photo taken during the formal signing between Peza and SSECC at the Peza office on Roxas Boulevard. Signatories were Miriam O. Katigbak, SSECC president and Peza Director General Lilia B. de Lima.

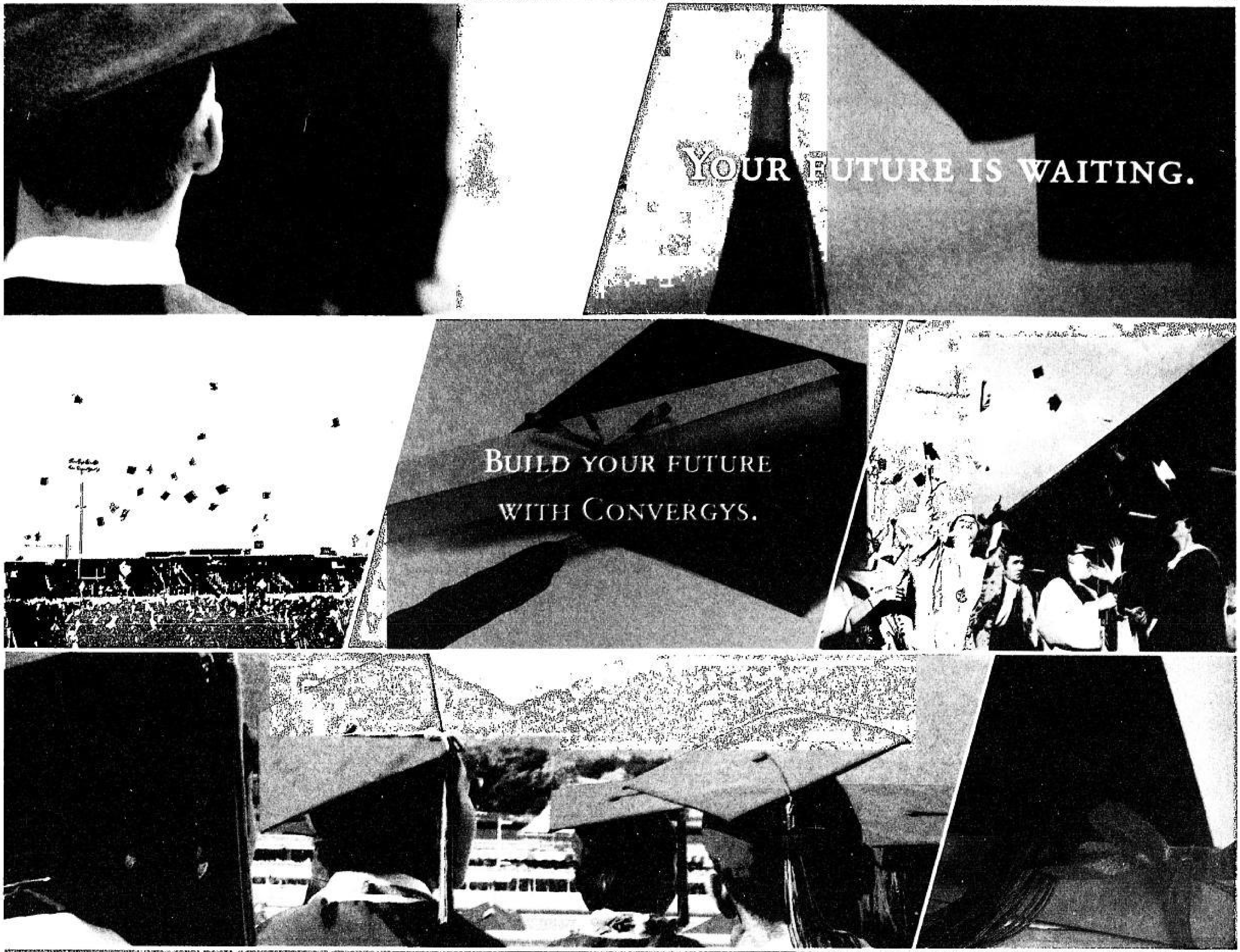
SILOS AND NG, SHINE IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS GAMES

Tenpin Bowlers Anton Silos and Roxanne Ng from NCR South Chapter were the biggest winners in the recently concluded the National Special Olympic Games at the Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center. Silos, a bright prospect for the World Special Olympic Games in 2007 averaged 197 pin falls and Ng triple gold medallist in the 2003 Dublin World Games towed their team to a gold medal in the Division I team event partnered in the doubles and topped their respective singles events. 44 special athletes from Baguio Iloilo, Negros Occidental, NCR-North and NCR-South competed in the tournament sponsored by Shell V-power, Gardenia Bakeries Phil Inc, Go Nuts Donuts, Creative Response, Oishi, Sterling Paper Products, Aqua Safe, Teacher Mom, Roland Roldan's Photography and Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center. NCR South garnered 18 medals (7-6-5) gold-silver-bronze medal tally followed by NCR North with 15(4-6-5) Baguio (6-3-5) and Negros Occidental (4-3-7) tied with 14 medals and Iloilo with 13 (4-7-2). Arnold 'Igan' Clavio, GMA TV host and long time supporter of Special Olympics Philippines awarded the medals assisted by Bacolod City Mayor Bing Leonardia. Those interested in volunteering their time and services, sponsors and those who would like to enroll their special child for training in a Special Olympics Program may contact Cristina Gacuma of Teacher Mom at 899-3678 or Alex Babst of Special Olympics Philippines at 926-6946 to 47.

TSPI MARKS MBA OPENING

In December 2006, TSPI Development Corp, a Christian NGO engaged in microfinance obtained its license to operate a Mutual Benefit Association (MBA) under the corporate name TSPI MBA. This initiative is consistent with TSPI's mission to provide every Filipino client-poor of TSPI to have access to insurance services. The board of trustees and officers of the MBA are the following: Ruben C. De Lara, president and chief executive officer; Ma. Luz A. Planas, chair; Vicente L. Panlilio, treasurer; Florencia G. Tarriela, vice chair; Dominador F. Chipeco Jr., corporate secretary and Susan P. Trinidad, MBA general manager and chief operating officer. The MBA office is located at Unit A, Basement, Padilla Building, F. Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City, tel. nos. 637-4851 and 638-6219. Shown are the board of trustees and management staff of TSPI Development Corp with IC Commissioner Evangeline Crisostomo-Escobillo (seated second from left).

JOB Market
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007
Philippine Copyright 1995
For jobseekers, log on to: www. jobmarketonline.com
JOBMarket is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon
Text us your feedback: Inquirer |m name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
Find A Career In Here.
5


YOUR FUTURE IS WAITING.
BUILD YOUR FUTURE WITH CONVERGYS.

Inbound Customer Care Representatives
(Alabang, Commonwealth, Makati)

Inbound Customer Care Representatives - Health Care Account
* Be hired for this account and receive a P15,000 HIRING BONUS
(Makati)

Outbound Customer Care Representatives - Part time
(Makati)

Outbound Collections Representatives
(Ortigas)

Technical Support Representatives
(Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas)

Finance and Sales Associates
(Ortigas)

Fraud Analysts
(Makati)

Landline Specialists
(Makati)

Other Openings:

Operations Managers - General Customer Care & Sales programs
Team Leaders - General Customer Care & Sales programs
(Alabang)

Operations Managers - General Customer Care program
Recruitment Officer
Sourcing Officer
(Commonwealth)

Operations Managers - Technical and Billing Programs
Team Leader - Technical Program
Reports Analyst
Dialer Administrator
Recruitment Officer
Recruitment Specialist
Recruitment Associates
Sourcing Officer
Sourcing Associates
(Makati)

Team Leaders - Financial Sales & Collections program
Sourcing Officer
(Ortigas)

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Recruitment Hotline: (02)581-5760

philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com

RECRUITMENT SITES

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate
Cyberzone,
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1688

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas St.,
Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills,
Cebu City
(032)416-5810

Commonwealth Office
2/F Diliman Commercial
Center, #46 Don Mariano
Marcos Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City
(02)756-7088

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796
Ayala Ave., cor
Salcedo St. Legaspi
Village, Makati City
(02)756-7188

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equitable Tower, #4
ADB Avenue Ortigas
Center, Pasig City
(02)857-7678

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard
cor. Padre Campa St.
Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

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(Prescription Products Division)

QUALIFICATION

- Four year College course, if fresh graduate, must be among top 20% of the class
- Male or Female
- If with sales experience, must show proven track record
- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient in Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- Must know how to drive and with a valid driver's license

Kindly address your application letter to **Ms. Brenda B Sanchez, HR Coordinator**
Interested employee-applicants may hand carry and submit the following not later than **MARCH 2, 2007:**

1. **Application Letter**
2. **Resume with latest photo**
3. **Transcript of Record**
   - You may also MAIL to: JANSSEN PHARMACEUTICA, a div. of Johnson & Johnson (Phils.), Inc., Edison Road, Barrio Ibayo, 1700 Paranaque City

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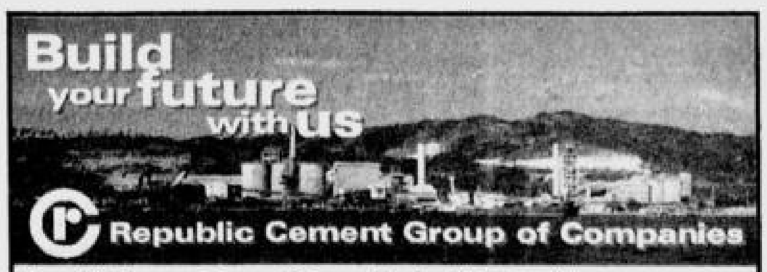

Republic Cement Group of Companies, in which French cement company Lafarge Cement is a strategic investor, is currently looking for the following:

CADET ENGINEERS (Ref. No. HO-CD-0207)

Requirements:

- Must be a graduate of Mechanical, Chemical, Electrical or Mine Engineering
- Must either be a fresh graduate or with 1-2 years work experience
- Must be in the top 10% of his/her graduating class or have a professional license
- Must possess leadership qualities
- Must be driven and willing to gain hands-on experience
- Preferably living near Rizal, Bulacan, or Batangas, or be willing to live in those areas

MINING ENGINEER
(for Bulacan plant; Ref. No. RCC-MIE-0207)

Requirements:

- Must be a licensed engineer
- Must have at least 3-4 years experience in open pit or quarry operations
- Must possess knowledge in short and long-term planning
- Must be computer literate

MECHANIC (for Bulacan plant; Ref. No. RCC-M-0207)

Requirements:

- Must be at least a graduate of a vocational course
- Must have at least 2 years work experience in Mechanical Works, preferably in a cement plant

For **CADET ENGINEER applicants,** you may apply electronically, quoting the **Ref. No.** and **Job Title** on the subject line. Please attach either your certificate of graduation (for fresh graduates) or transcript of records, and your resumes and email it to Macecilia.Sese@ph.lafarge.com **no later than March 9, 2007.** You may also send your applications through regular mail to **Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc., 18th Floor PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City 1226.** Please quote the Ref. No. and job title on the envelope.

For **MINING ENGINEER** and **MECHANIC applicants**, you may apply electronically, quoting the **Ref. No.** and **Job Title** on the subject line. Please attach your resume and email it to olive.bringas@ph.lafarge.com.

LAFARGE SEMENTO

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO/UN) is in need of a qualified individual for its project, "Increasing Local Milk Availability through Capacity Building for the Small-Scale Dairy Sector" for the position of-

National Consultant II
Marketing Support

Under the technical supervision of the Animal Production Service (AGAP) supported by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), and the operational supervision of the FAO Country Office in the Philippines, the consultant will work closely with the National Project Coordinator, other project consultants and NDA counterparts in performing the following duties:

First mission (two months):

- *survey and document the small scale milk processor community and describe the prevailing system(s) of milk marketing and processing and assess the potential markets for dairy products in rural and urban areas close to the small scale producers;*
- *advice on market research and assist in implementing a business oriented market study to provide basic information on the product and its demand for planning production volumes, composition of product-mix, specifications for products; the size and composition of present demand.; the market segments; the pricing of dairy products; end use e.g. consumers; consumer groups e.g. preferences, income levels and age distribution of consumers; geographical distribution of consumers e.g. urban centres and country side; the demand projections e.g. over ten years; the likely market penetration ratio; the broad pricing idea related to growth potential and market penetration projections.*
- *assess the training needs of the small-scale dairy sector to improve efficiency and quality in the milk marketing, with special reference to milk processors, distributors/ sales intermediaries and ensure gender aspects are taken into account;*
- *assist in preparing the guidelines, lessons plans and teaching materials for the in-service vocational training programme;*
- *assist in designing a milk payment scheme for smallholder milk producers that provides incentives to increase milk production and improve milk quality*
- *assist in preparing and implementing a field test of the payment scheme;*
- *draft a model business plan for a dairy cooperative;*
- *assist with running the project inception work shop.*

This mission should be timed to harmonize with the first mission of the international consultant/Dairy Technology and Marketing and the FAO backstopping officer.

Second mission (two months):
support the National Project Coordinator in organizing the regular project task force meetings;

- *collate and finalize the detailed lesson plans and teaching materials for the entire training programme on marketing aspects;*
- *institute the course administration system, including modalities for eventual cost sharing/recovery and set up a monitoring and evaluation system for the marketing training programme;*
- *assist in training for the Dairy Training Team in desktop publishing and the publication of the first dairy newsletter;*
- *take lead responsibility for conducting and evaluating the first batch of in-service marketing training modules at the model dairy units*
- *develop guidelines for the NDA community school milk feeding programme;*
- *prepare materials and implement the media campaign to raise consumer awareness about the benefits of processed local fresh milk, including the measures the small-scale dairy sector is taking to improve quality;*
- *assist with introducing the milk payment scheme;*
- *assist with preparing the NDA follow-up action/investment plan.*

The mission will be timed to harmonize with the second missions of the Dairy technology/Marketing consultants (and the FAO backstopping officer).

Third mission (one month):

- *finalize and consolidate the field documents/guidelines prepared by the project team into detailed manual for the operation of NDA marketing training courses and the model cooperative dairy enterprises;*
- *support the international consultant in to refine the action plan to sustain the future training and milk payment programme, including repetition of the improved milk collection, processing, marketing and payment system to other areas of The Philippines – if feasible;*
- *assist with finalizing the NDA follow-up action/investment plan;*
- *assist the National Project Coordinator to run the project stakeholder evaluation workshop;*
- *draft the project terminal statement concerning all aspects of marketing.*

This mission will be timed to harmonize with the third mission of the Dairy technology/marketing consultant (and the FAO backstopping officer).

General:

- *participate in project meetings and training activities;*
- *assist in other matters, as may be required by the NPC, in relation to dairy development in the Philippines;*
- *upon completion of each mission prepare and submit through the NPC for AGAP/RAP technical clearance a report of activities (hard and soft copies) with findings and recommendations for follow up activities addressed to the NDA.*

Qualifications: A dairy/food marketing expert with a degree in agriculture, agribusiness, marketing or related fields. With at least five year's experience in marketing studies and development of market strategies in the food industry, preferably experience in working for small-scale entrepreneurs, having comprehensive practical knowledge of the process from processing to marketing, in particular quality assurance and consumer demands and requirements.

Language:	English and local dialects.
Duration:	Five months (three missions of approximately two, two and one months).
Duty Station:	National Dairy Authority (NDA) Central Office, Manila, with considerable travel to outlying Islands.

Only applications accompanied by filled FAO Personal History Form (http://www.fao.org/va/adm11e.dot) and received at the following postal/E-mail address or by fax on or before 2 March 2007, will be included in the first screening:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
29th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Fax; (63-2) 9010361/ 910362
E-Mail: FAO-PH@fao.org (Indicate "Application (TCP/PHI/3102)" in Subject)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO/UN) is in need of a qualified individual for its project, "Increasing Local Milk Availability through Capacity Building for the Small-Scale Dairy Sector" for the position of-

National Consultant I
Training Support

Under the technical supervision of the Animal Production Service (AGAP) supported by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), and the operational supervision of the FAO Country Office in the Philippines, the consultant will work closely with the National Project Coordinator, other project consultants and NDA counterparts in performing the following duties:

First mission (one month):

- *assess the training needs of the small-scale dairy sector throughout the farm to processor chain and make a provisional list a priority topics/modules for the training programme;*
- *assess the training needs of the members of participating groups/cooperatives;*
- *prepare outline lesson plans and a training calendar for the training programme;*
- *assist with setting up the logistics to support the project at NDA;*
- *prepare a database of dairy farmers' organizations, service providers, milk collectors, processors and distributors/sales intermediaries in the small-scale dairy sector;*
- *select potential clients and candidates for the training programme;*
- *assist the National Project Coordinator to select NDA and DA animal products sector staff for the dairy training team and identify potential external resource persons;*
- *assist the National Project Coordinator and international consultant to specify and procure the equipment and supplies for the short-term in-service and outreach training programmes;*
- *assist the National Project Coordinator to organize stakeholder awareness meetings and lead the project inception workshop;*
- *assist with supervising the pilot milk producer payment scheme.*

This mission should be timed to harmonize with the missions of the international consultant and the FAO backstopping officer.

Second mission (two months):

- *support the National Project Coordinator in organizing the regular project task force meetings;*
- *collate and finalize the detailed lesson plans and teaching materials for the entire training programme;*
- *institute the course administration system, including modalities for eventual cost sharing/recovery and set up a monitoring and evaluation system for the training programme;*
- *provide training for the Dairy Training Team in desktop publishing and oversee the publication of the first dairy newsletter;*
- *take lead responsibility for conducting and evaluating the first batch of in-service training modules at the model dairy units and outreach/farmers' field school training sessions for milk producers;*
- *develop guidelines for the NDA community school milk feeding programme;*
- *assist with introducing the milk payment scheme;*
- *assist with preparing the NDA follow-up action/investment plan.*

The mission will be timed to harmonize with the missions of the other consultants and the FAO backstopping officer.

Third mission (two months):

- *finalize and consolidate the field documents/guidelines prepared by the project team into detailed manual for the operation of NDA training courses and the model cooperative dairy enterprises;*
- *assist with finalizing the NDA follow-up action/investment plan;*
- *assist the National Project Coordinator to run the project stakeholder evaluation workshop;*
- *draft the project terminal statement concerning all aspects of farmers training*

This mission will be timed to harmonize with the missions of the other consultants and the FAO backstopping officer.

General:

- *participate in project meetings and training activities;*
- *assist in other matters, as may be required by the NPC, in relation to dairy development in the Philippines;*
- *upon completion of each mission prepare and submit through the NPC for AGAP/RAP technical clearance a report of activities (hard and soft copies) with findings and recommendations for follow up activities addressed to the NDA.*

Qualifications: A dairy expert with a degree in agricultural extension or related fields. With at least five year's experience in organizing and training of dairy smallholders and/or small-scale entrepreneurs, having comprehensive practical knowledge of dairying from farm to processing levels.

Language:	English and local dialects.
Duration:	5 months (three missions of approximately one, two and two months).
Duty Station:	National Dairy Authority (NDA) Central Office, Manila, with considerable travel to outlying Islands.

Only applications accompanied by filled FAO Personal History Form (http://www.fao.org/va/adm11e.dot) and received at the following postal/E-mail address or by fax on or before 2 March 2007, will be included in the first screening:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
29th Floor, Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Fax; (63-2) 9010361/ 910362
E-Mail: FAO-PH@fao.org (Indicate "Application (TCP/PHI/3102)" in Subject)

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Female, 25-40 years old
Graduate of BS Acctng.
Computer literate

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Female, Catholic
Grad. of Psychology
24-40 years old
With 2 years experience

ENCODER
Female, 20-30 years old
Grad. of any computer course
With typing speed of 40-50 wpm

Email Resumé w/ 2x2 picture & Transcript at inquiry@piandre.com
Te.#8130459 Fax# 8127507
G/F CSJ Bldg. 105 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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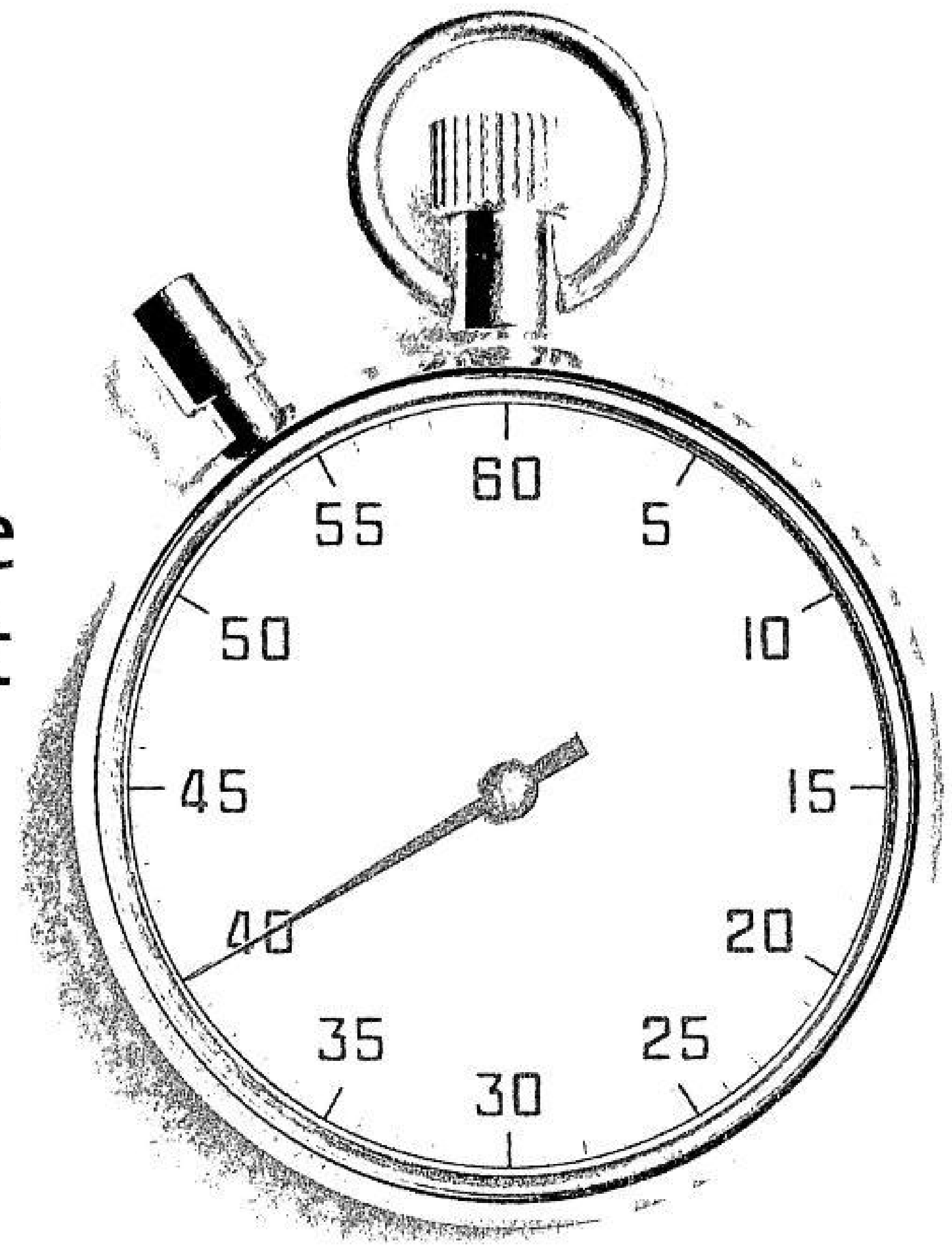

**Attend our job fair on February 26 - 27 in Vivere Suites, Filinvest, Alabang.
Join Accenture by March 31 and receive a special P15,000.00 signing bonus.**

We know the importance of creating the right environment for success. At Accenture, you can develop your skills faster than almost anywhere else. We're one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies and we help our clients become high-performance businesses. We're now building a customer contact services team in the Philippines and we want talented people to join us.

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As a customer contact agent for our ISP client, you will provide technical support and handle billing inquiries. For those with outbound or financial services experience, you can be part of a pioneer account performing outbound collections and inbound customer service for a UK based utilities company.

Join our job fair on February 26, 3pm to 11pm, or on February 27, 7am to 3pm at Vivere Suites, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Or you may visit our recruitment center from 26 February to 2 March 2007, 10am to 3pm, at Robinsons Pioneer Mall, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. You could walk away with a new job on the same day!

For more details, please call or text us at 0917-8876532.

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We are the leading international airline caterer in the Philippines, an ISO 9001:2000, HACCP and HALAL certified company with global affiliations. We are inviting topnotch professionals to join us as we move forward with our business! Our current openings are:

FINANCE MANAGER

- CPA, 30 years old and above
- Must have 5 years experience in the same capacity; preferably gained in the food industry
- Solid exposure in general and cost accounting, business planning, variance analysis, cash flow management, forecasting, financial auditing, accounts payables and receivables
- Well versed on BIR tax laws and regulatory requirements of government and non-government institutions
- Familiar with Information Technology systems

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- CPA, 25-30 years old
- Experienced in general accounting work
- Knowledgeable in PFRS/PAS update
- Familiarity with Platinum software an advantage
- 1-2 years working experience in the same capacity

If you are interested, please send not later than 10 March 2007, your comprehensive resume, with 2 x 2 picture to:

MacroAsia Catering Services
West Service Road, Merville Exit, NAIA, Pasay City 1300

Or e-mail to: recruitment@macroasiacatering.com
Visit our website at www. macroasiacatering.com

Powerlane Resources, Inc.

Unit 3 Yese Commercial Bldg.
Greenwoods Park, Rizal Avenue, CBD Area,
Subic Bay, Freeport Zone 2222
Telefax Nos. (047) 2522568
Cel Nos. 0920-9473468

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80 FEMALE PRODUCTION LEADERS

- ☐ 21 to 28 years old; Must be an Engineering Graduate (Industrial / Industrial & Management, Electronics & Communications, Mechanical or Computer Engineering)
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Applicants may email their application letter and resume at recruitment@powerlane.com.ph.

Shortlisted applicants will be informed via email or sms of the schedule of the interview and examinations to be conducted in Manila.

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- Female, 22 to 27 years old, preferably single
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least 1 year related experience
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Interested applicants are encouraged to apply in person, Monday to Friday, with application letter, curriculum vitae, transcript of records, and 2x2 ID photo, or send these to this address:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#1610 Triumph Bldg., 6th Flr. Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. #927-9671 to 75 loc 230 / 216.
Email: **hrd_hpi@yahoo.com**

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QUALIFICATIONS:
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E-MAIL YOUR CV W/ 2x2' PICTURE AT
jak.appleton@gmail.com
OR PERSONALLY SUBMIT YOUR CV AT
Jak Appleton Group Inc.
Reception Area, Rennaisance 2000
Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Attention : Mr. Tsang
SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION : NOT LATER THAN MARCH 3, 2007

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We are one of the country's most in-demand and dynamic strategic marketing communications firms. Transforming the way marketing communications is done in the Philippines, our clients are among the country's top brands and market leaders. We are looking for the right people to lead us as we take the next step towards growth. We need:

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- Responsible for fiduciary client relations
- Manages the company's profitability
- Works with new business development to ensure profitability and development of new business units
- Makes recommendations to the board for strategic acquisitions and investments

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE MARKETING MANAGER

- Determine the Business's Marketing and Growth Campaign Strategy and execution across business units to maintain/create sales momentum
- Build and make profitable supporting business units and corporate products
- Oversees growth and profitability of non-core business units
- Identify and capitalizes new areas of growth for the company both locally and internationally
- Represent the Business and interface with Senior key clients and partners across the region
- Determine client proposals (i.e. documentation, pricing).
- Oversees the preparation of the corporate give aways, marketing materials, etc.

The ideal candidates must also have previously worked in a similar capacity i.e. a start-up or a small to medium sized company, and have produced and experienced growth for said company. The candidates must have strong systems and process orientation, be flexible and structured and be able to implement processes and procedures.

The candidates should be team players, and be extremely diplomatic and likeable by both team members and clients, and yet dynamic and very driven.

Interested parties may forward their Detailed CVs with 2x2 photo to: **wanted_managers@yahoo.com**
Applicants will be treated in strictest confidentiality.

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Qualifications
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The Personnel Manager
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28 Eugenio Lopez Ave., Diliman Q.C
or email to: recruitment@abi.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
ACQUISITION SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for an **ACQUISITION SPECIALIST** who will be responsible for the proper administration, timely completion, and prompt close-out of acquisition and assistance instruments managed by its different project offices. The successful candidate will be providing recommendations and/or alternatives as to the kind of acquisition or award for proposed activities of the project offices depending on the intent and level of control. He/she will have to ensure that the scopes of work for proposed activities are contractible and have complete documentation (scopes of work, budgets, waivers of competition or source and/or origin, if required) for acquisition/ assistance purposes. The incumbent will be preparing solicitation documents ensuring that these are advertised where applicable. He/She will be required to participate in technical evaluation meetings as representative of the Contracting Officer where he/she will provide guidance on acquisition/contracting regulations and will ensure compliance with procurement integrity rules. The incumbent is also responsible for doing cost/price analyses to determine if costs in budgets are fair, reasonable, and realistic. He/ She is also responsible for negotiations with the organizations on costs/ prices, terms, etc. until submission of final/best offer. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree in fields like in accounting, finance, business or pre-law. Completion of post graduate study is desirable. At least four (4) years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition, contracting, and assistance gained from an international or donor organizations highly preferred. Good knowledge of international and local business practices and detailed knowledge of local market pricing customs and practices are required. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) and good computer skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, **not later than March 09, 2007** to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (ages 0 to 12 yrs. old) who want to raise the IQ and EQ of their child

If you:
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- are willing to work full time/part time interviewing parents with young children

We offer:
- FREE Parenting Seminar on how to develop your child's potential maximum IQ and EQ
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- A chance to own the programs for your children at almost NO COST

We are a company specializing in this field that gives you the opportunity to EARN while you LEARN on a part time & full time basis.

Bring your bio-data and 2 recent photos, on
Tuesday, February 27 / 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM
Thursday, March 1 / 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM • Saturday, March 3 / 9:00 AM

504 Galleria Corp. Center, Ortigas Ave. cor. EDSA, Q.C. (beside Poveda)
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- > Excellent in Oral and Written English
- > Knowledge in Japanese and Korean Language is an advantage but not a requirement
- > Teaching Experience is an Advantage
- > Call Center and Broadcasting Experience a Plus
- > Must be willing to work on shifts

RESOURCE & RESEARCH STAFF
- > Excellent in Oral and Written English. Teaching Experience is an advantage
- > Will provide and develop lesson materials to be used for online English Courses.

GENERAL OFFICE AFFAIRS STAFF
- > Must be knowledgeable in accounting and human resources

For inquiries or submission of resume, contact the following:

Able Advertising Agency
Unit 8 Bohol Mansion, # 43 Sgt Esquerra St., Quezon City
Phone: (02) 413.66.25 / (082) 228.60.20 / able.ad.agency@gmail.com
Or submit to security guard of Port Royal Building, Rada St., Makati City

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FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT
(Quezon City)

2 ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL

- ➢ Male/Female, preferably single, between 21 to 28 years old;
- ➢ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy, computer literate
- ➢ Can work under minimum supervision

Email comprehensive resumé with picture to:
accounting_amci@yahoo.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST who will serve as the Health Systems Development Specialist responsible for designing and managing local level activities supported nationwide by the organization. The incumbent will work directly with the public and the private health sectors to promote sound decision making and provision of family planning services, as well as HIV/AIDS/ STD and tuberculosis prevention and treatment at the local level.

S/he will be the principal designer of new activities in the local level and will have major responsibilities for the success of programs including: 1) improvement of the local government health systems nationwide; 2) Contraceptive Self Reliance; 3) programs in the conflict affected areas of Mindanao; and 4) Washington DC – based Child Survival Grants. The incumbent will also have close working relationships with senior government and private sector officials.

The candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- Master's Degree or the Philippine equivalent formal education in a field relevant to local level health systems such as public health, public and business administration, economics and other related fields. In the absence of a post-graduate degree, five years of progressively responsible, job related, professional-level experience may be substituted.
- Six to eight years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in the indicated field of specialization.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of local level laws and systems as they relate to the delivery of family planning and other public health services.
- Excellent command of English (both written and oral), proficiency in the use of computer, ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations, strong interpersonal and teamwork skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than March 09, 2007 to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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One of the pioneers in providing manpower supply/services for property management, construction, engineering and technical services is accepting applications for the following positions:

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Male, Industrial or Business Management graduate with experience in construction and engineering company; has marketing skills, good communication/ human relation skills; Mature, cost conscious and hardworking; Able to drive and has valid driver's license.

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Male, licensed Mechanical/ Electrical Engineer; must have hands-on experience in technical sales in various clients and industries, particularly in the CALABARZON area; familiar with client opening, costing, implementation, retention, expansion and development; honest, innovative, highly motivated; mature and hard working; computer literate; has driving skills and possesses valid driver's license.

ENGINEERS (Mechanical and Electrical)

Must be licensed Engineer or certified plant mechanic, with at least 5 years experience in design and installation of electrical facilities and equipment, or maintenance and repair of generator set, pumps, compressors, air-conditioning units, pipings and other mechanical works.

TECHNICAL RECRUITMENT OFFICER

Graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering with at least 2 years experience in technical recruitment and placement in manufacturing plants, particularly in the Laguna and Cavite areas. Computer literate and knows how to drive. Has good communication skills; hardworking and with good moral character. A resident of either Laguna or Cavite.

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or other social sciences, with at least one year experience in recruitment and training. Knowledge in job analysis, job description preparation and training needs assessment preferred. Must have good communication/ presentation skills.

ANALYST PROGRAMMER

Graduate of BS Computer Science/ Information Technology course, with at least 3 years experience in systems analysis and design, systems development (Foxpro 2.6 – DOS and Windows based, knowledge in VB.net and Java script is an advantage). Preferably with exposure in financial/ general ledger programs in human resource placement consultancy and services company. Result oriented, resourceful, hardworking and can work with minimal supervision. Willing to travel outside Metro Manila.

BILLING CLERK

Graduate of any business course, preferably accounting. Computer literate. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to apply personally
with your resume and latest 2x2 colored picture at
SERVICIO FILIPINO INC.,
105 West Avenue, Quezon City or call 371-13-21 to 30 for inquiries.
Email: servicio_filipino45@yahoo.com
hr_sfi45@yahoo.com

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FEBRUARY 27-28, 2007 10AM to 7PM / 3rd Level Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City

Interested applicants may also visit us at the 15/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Recruitment Hours are from 7AM to 3PM, Monday to Friday. Resumes may be sent to careersph@vxi.com

*NOTE: This is an independent recruitment activity of Vision-X, Inc. T.G.I.Friday's serves only as the venue for the said event.

REPUTABLE COMPANY NOW HIRING!!!

SALES / MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- Male or Female, at least 25 years old
- College graduate
- With contacts & 1-2 year selling experience
- Knowledgeable on Chemical Gases, an advantage.
- Willing to travel, can drive and with valid driver's license.
- Computer literate.
- Good communication skills – written and oral.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

- Female.
- With at least 2-3 years experience in a manufacturing, trading, service, or distribution company.
- With knowledge of tax regulations and experience in setting up process systems and controls.
- Experience in internal audit an advantage.
- Financial and administrative experience is required.
- At least 1 year supervision an advantage.

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANTS

- Female
- Graduate of accounting degree
- With at least 1-2 years experience in a manufacturing, trading, service, or distribution company
- Financial analysis experience is required.
- Knowledgeable in the implementation and monitoring of process controls
- Cash management and administrative experience an advantage

Please send your resume and photo through **manila_applicant@yahoo.com**

Aggressive **SALESPERSON**, College or engineering course graduate but not required. Excellent earnings opportunity. Experience not necessary. Send resumé to:

The President, Unit GS-2B,
107 Marcos Alvarez Avenue
Talon, Las Piñas City, 1747

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CIVIL ENGINEER

- Candidate must possess Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering
- With at least two (2) years experience in Civil & Architectural works
- Proficient in oral and in written communication
- Computer literate AUTOCADD / EXCEL / WORK
- Competitive Salary

Submit your resumé at:

HORIZON BUSINESS GROUP, INC.
414 El Grande Ave
BF Homes, Parañaque
Tel #: 820-48-26 Fax #: 820-06-62
Or look for ENGR. JOEL FETALINO
E-mail @ hbginc@pldtdsl.net

Join Our Team and GROW with US!

FLEET MANAGEMENT OFFICER

- Preferably a graduate of BS Mechanical Engineering
- With experience in Vehicle Preventive Maintenance & Repair
- With at least 2 years experience in Fleet supervision
- Knowledge in Fleet Management Software is an advantage
- With leadership ability
- With good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work on long hours

CREATIVE STAFF

- Preferably a graduate of BS Computer Science/Information Technology or Visual Communication
- Proficient in Adobe Photoshop and Pagemaker, Premier, Image Ready, Corel draw, Macromedia Dreamweaver MX, Flash MX, Fireworks, Illustrator
- With creative and artistic competencies in visual communication
- With at least 1 year work experience in related field
- Excellent web design skills
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Candidate should bring work samples

Other positions open:

Certified Public Accountants
Executive Assistant
Trainer
Programmer
Accounting Staff
HR Staff
Office Staff
Family Counselor
Marketing Supervisor
Drivers

DeathCare Experts

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GROUP OF COMPANIES

Quezon Avenue corner #2 West 4th St., Quezon City.
Telephone No. 371-7757
E-mail: cecilpb@stpeter.com.ph

The **Girl Scouts of the Philippines, National Headquarters** urgently needs the following personnel:

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Basic qualifications:

a. College graduate in business course preferably Marketing major
b. Female
c. With at least one year experience in Sales Analysis & Marketing Strategies
d. Very good in written and oral communications
e. Must be computer literate

SECRETARY

Basic qualifications:

a. Graduate of four year course preferably on communications
b. Female
c. With at least two years experience in taking minutes of Board Meetings
d. Must be very good in written and oral communications
e. Must be computer literate

Please look for Lalaine or Alice of Personnel Division, Girl Scouts of the Philippines National Headquarters, 901 Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila. Telephone Numbers: 5238331-42 loc. 209 (at the back of Manila Science High School) • E-mail address at **gspnhq@tri-isys.com**

B&M GLOBAL SERVICES MANILA

We are a young and dynamic organization providing support services to a law firm with more than 70 offices in 38 countries. Our continued growth demands the expertise of professionals. If you see yourself working as part of a global organization driven by a passion for excellence, then we would like to hear from you.

Senior Graphic Designer

The person hired will assist in the development of templates for common desktop publishing and design applications used across the Firm, execute design and desktop publishing assignments for global regional and local marketing staff, and identify and implement design and process enhancements to improve the quality, consistency and cost-effectiveness of design services within the Firm.

He/she must have the following credentials:

- 5-7 years of experience in graphic design
- 2-3 years working within defined corporate identity standards
- Relevant degree/formal education, certification or experience in QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator, Adobe Acrobat, InDesign
- Web design experience a plus
- Experience working in a global organization a plus
- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written
- Demonstrated understanding of design concepts and applications
- Able to work flexible hours
- Experience participating in and contributing to corporate identity program
- Experience managing the design process from brief to final completed files
- Completed formal qualification in design or equivalent experience
- Experience working as part of a design team

Desktop Publisher

The person hired will execute desktop publishing and design work to reflect the correct application of the Firm's visual identity program. The ideal candidate is an enthusiastic team player with strong communication skills and a technical aptitude in design programs including QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator and Adobe Acrobat in a Windows environment.

He/she must have the following credentials:

- Bachelor's degree in marketing, design or equivalent certificate in desktop publishing
- 1-3 years of experience in desktop publishing (using QuarkXpress)
- Graphic design experience an advantage
- Advanced desktop publishing skills (Quark preferred)
- Ability to prepare digital files from raw data for online deployment and prepress output
- Good understanding of Microsoft office suite
- Strong oral and written English and analytical skills
- Excellent organizational and follow-up skills
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to prioritize and work independently with limited supervision

Shift hours for these positions may vary to accommodate the Firm's time zones.

Qualified applicants may submit their cover letter, resume, 2x2 picture and portfolio of sample works to bmgsm.hr@bakernet.com until March 2, 2007.

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For more information about our company, visit our website at www.supply-chain.com.au

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DJK

DAIICHI JITSUGYO (PHILIPPINES), INC.
A worldwide Japanese trading company for the electronics & semiconductor industry, is in need of highly competent, creative and aggressive individuals for the position of:

INVENTORY ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

1) Female, not more than 28 years old
2) Preferably with experience in Inventory Management
3) Graduate of B.S. Accountancy or any related course
4) Computer literate

SMT and FA SERVICE ENGINEERS

Qualifications:

1) Male, not more than 28 years of age, 5'5" and above in height
2) College graduate preferably Engineering related course (ECE, COE, EE, ME)
3) Computer literate (CAD, Windows NT operating system, Windows 2000, MS office, etc.).
4) Background on electronic assembly
5) Experience in SMT Machines for SMT Reflow Oven/ Wave Solder/ Inspection machines for FA

Due to the urgency of this requirement, interested applicants may send through mail or submit their comprehensive resume with job description, recent 2x2 photo and transcript of records to the address below until March 3, 2007:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DAIICHI JITSUGYO (PHILIPPINES), INC.
Unit 2001/2002 Philippine Axa Life Centre,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Pablo Ocampo Sts.,
Manila 1004
MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT FUND OFFICE

The Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project is inviting interested applicants to fill-in the following positions:

CODE: TS-1 TRAINING SPECIALIST

- Degree in Social Sciences, Master's degree is an advantage;
- At least three (3) years experience in preparation and conduct of training programs particularly for Local Government Units;
- Experience in working with Local Government Units is an advantage;
- Proficient in written and oral English;
- Computer literate;
- Willing to travel to remote places; and
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills

CODE: TA-4 TRAINING ASSOCIATE

- Degree in Social Sciences
- At least two (2) years experience in preparation and conduct of training programs particularly for Local Government Units
- Experience in working with Local Government Units is an advantage
- Proficient in written and oral English
- Computer literate
- Willing to travel to remote places; and
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, comprehensive resumé, 2x2 picture and sample Training Design or Module developed on or before March 2, 2007 to:

(Sgd.) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Municipal Development Fund Office
Department of Finance
Podium Level, Executive Tower Building
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

AMORE

Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy Program

A rural electrification project being implemented by Winrock International, in partnership with USAID, Mirant Philippines, the Department of Energy, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), is in need of a highly qualified and responsible person to occupy the position of:

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Qualifications:

- College graduate, preferably in Engineering
- Preferably with procurement experience in USAID-assisted projects
- Computer literate
- Competent in developing bid documents and liaising with vendors and sub-contractors
- Experienced in negotiation and contracts administration
- Familiar with high-power equipment and installations
- With good communication skills
- With a strong sense of responsibility, unquestionable integrity and professionalism
- Effective teamplayer
- Self-starter and able to work independently
- Willing to travel to Mindanao whenever necessary

Qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter and comprehensive curriculum vitae with recent ID picture to:

The HR and Administration Manager
ALLIANCE FOR MINDANAO OFF-GRID RENEWABLE ENERGY (AMORE)
Unit 1501 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
or email to **ebanares@amore.org.ph** or **vpadul@amore.org.ph**

A Reputable Japanese Importer and Trading Company is in **URGENT** need for a

FEMALE IN-HOUSE SALES ASSISTANT

with the following qualifications:

- College graduate of any course
- With basic knowledge on Importation procedures
- Computer literate
- Can work under minimal supervision
- Must be flexible and hardworking
- With good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may apply in person at the:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
Unit 2003, 20th Floor Antel Corporate Centre
No. 121 Valero Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City, Philippines

(Please bring your Curriculum Vitae, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo)

Applicants shall be accommodated from Monday to Friday between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

TSM SHIPPING (PHILS.), INC.

IS IN NEED OF TECHNICAL PURCHASERS:

Possible candidate will be

- A young engineer with few years of experience at sea (preferably bulk carriers) who would like to start new career ashore

OR

- A younger person with fair experience in purchasing / logistics

Candidates must be good in

- English / spoken and written

and they must be

- Proficient in IT technology (MS application) and
- Good communicators

Purchasing requires **dedicated** persons who can **work under pressure** and on tight time schedules

There are four things that candidates will need to learn

1. our system and procedures
2. our proprietary purchasing software (ShipNet and ShipServ)
3. The market (suppliers / forwarders etc.) .... and of course
4. Vessels that they will support

Please submit in person your resumé with photo together with certificate of employment for possible interview.

UKAS

Mr. Ian R. Garcia – admin./Personnel Manager
ian.garcia@tsmphil.com.ph
TSM HOUSE 1747 Dian St., Palanan Makati City
Tel No. 860-7575

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www.newfieldtraining.com

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QUALIFIED EXPERIENCED CAR DENTERS
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QUALIFIED EXPERIENCED CAR SPRAY PAINTERS
(used Dupont Paint only)

Applicants must be capable of working on classic auto restorations. Above award salary and excellent working conditions.

Apply at **CLASSIC AUTOCRAFT**
c/o ROBERT WALLACE ANTIQUES, INC.
Bldg. 7119 Gil Puyat Ave., Clark Special Economic Zone,
Clark Field, Pampanga
Tel Nos. 045-5996013 / 045-8934234

Look for Matthew De Paoli – Gen. Manager (matt@classicautocraft.net)
Anna Batul – Admin Manager (anna@classicautocraft.net)

A Private non-sectarian Chinese-Filipino school in Manila
is in need of

PRE-SCHOOL / GRADE SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS AND OFFICE STAFF

The applicant must be:

- A graduate of relevant course (i.e., B.S.E.Ed. for Pre-School and Grade School teacher – applicants. B.S.E. for High School teacher-applicants, or B.S.E. major in Library Science for librarian-applicants):
- A licensed professional (for librarians and teachers);
- Dynamic, hardworking and willing to grow with the organization;
- Teaching experience is an advantage for teacher-applicants.

Interested applicants are requested to mail their comprehensive resumé, four 2x2 photos, photocopy of transcript of records, license, service record (if available), certificate of good moral character & letter of application to:

The School Principal
C.P.O. Box 3956
Zip Code: 1000 Manila

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- Facilities and Security Supervisor
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email resumés to:
yogomanila@ictgroup.com
glen.odom@ictgroup.com

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For walk-in applicants, please bring your SSS number, TIN number and NBI clearance.

An established Magazine publisher has immediate openings for

Account Executives

- male/female, not more than 35 years, likes to interact with people
- aggressive, self-starter, can work with minimal supervision
- experience with advertising sales an advantage, new grads also welcome
- performance driven, motivated
- salary + transpo + commission

Hand carry your resumé with picture to:

**305A Don Tim Bldg. 5438 Pres. Osmeña Sr.
(South Super Hiway) cor. Gen. Mascardo St.,
Bangkal Makati Tel. 7515178-79 • 8451382-83
Email: bgroupinc@gmail.com**

A Pasig City-based law firm is in need of the following:

ASSOCIATE

- Member of the Philippine Bar
- At least 25 years old
- Graduate of a reputable law school
- With 2-3 years work experience in general law practice
- Good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Hardworking and trustworthy

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, at least 22 years old
- Preferably a graduate of Accounting or similar course
- Good communication skills
- Computer literate
- Hardworking and trustworthy

*Qualified applicants may email their Resumés with latest 2x2 photo to **lawofficeapp@gmail.com***

Rhine
Rhine Marketing Corporation

Our company is one of the leading appliance dealers in our country today and we are in need of individuals who are results oriented, have the strong drive to succeed, and willing to work as our...

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (MT)

- College Graduate (Any course)
- Male, and at least 27 years old
- Willing to accept provincial assignments
- Previous experience in credit management and collection preferred but not required

RESIDENT INTERNAL AUDITOR

- Accounting Graduate
- Male, at least 25 years old
- Willing to accept provincial assignments
- Previous experience preferred but not required

Qualified and interested applicants who have the intense desire to pursue a lucrative career in the appliance industry may send their Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records and one 2x2 colored photo to:

For Luzon Applicants
RHINE MKTG. CORP.
Attention: Mr. Mel Orencia
#5th Flr., Carson Bldg., Orense
Street, Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 751-6490 • 751-64-81

For Visayas/Mindanao Applicants
RHINE MKTG. CORP.
Attention: Ms. Tess Zamora
Don V. Sotto corner
Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. 255-53-64 • 416-66-55

A leading IT Services company is in urgent need of the following personnel:

Field Engineer – BS ECE or related courses, to handle ATMs, Branch Automation and other IT Hardware services; can work well under pressure, willing to travel, willing to work on extended hours; preferably from:

Metro Manila	Bulacan	Cebu City
Batangas City	Pangasinan	Ilo-ilo
Laguna	Baguio City	Davao City
Cavite	Cabanatuan City	Cagayan de Oro

Sales and Marketing Executive – has competent marketing skills, technical / IT knowledge is an advantage.

Admin Assistant / Dispatch – Has good command of English language, good encoding skills and adept in MS Excel, attention to details, can work well under pressure, willing to work on extended hours.

Desktop / Network Maintenance – Graduate of Computer Engineering, Computer Science or related courses, knowledge in MS OS, Networking – Lan / Wireless configuration, good customer relations skills.

Candidates must be a degree holder or technical course graduate; of good moral character, team player, dynamic, can work with minimum supervision and with good inter-personal skills.

Please send your Resumé with 1x1 picture, Transcript of Records and Letter of Intent stating the position desired to:

**Operations Group
MCPO Box 2110
Makati City, Philippines**

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL ADVISORS

PA Government Services, Inc. (PA), prime contractor of the USAID-funded Philippines Energy and Clean Air Project (ECAP), is inviting applications from subject matter specialists in any of the following areas:

1. Philippine Clear Air Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations
2. Air Quality Management Policy, Tools and Planning
3. Motor Vehicle Emissions Reduction Strategies
4. Motor Vehicle Preventive Maintenance & Inspection
5. Bio-fuels Economics and Technology
6. Energy efficiency and Conservation
7. Development Communications and Advocacy

All positions are for short-term technical advisors and/or trainers, and will be located in Manila, within March 2007 to June 2008.

ECAP is a Technical Assistance Program for the Government of the Philippine Republic, with funding support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It seeks to assist the Philippine Government in effectively implementing energy and clean air reform initiatives in the country. The project is now in its mid-term implementation period and is managed by PA Government Services.

Job Requirements:
- Must have excellent familiarity on the subject matter in Philippine context
- Must have had related consultancy work in the subject area
- Must be knowledgeable with government's initiatives in the subject area
- Must possess a good network among government and non-government institutions/organization in the relevant area
- Must be at least a college graduate in the relevant field; advanced studies and/or graduate degree is a plus.

If you have the above basic qualifications, please submit your expression of interest, sample of written report, and detailed curriculum vitae in MS Word format to **j_bufi@ecap.com.ph.** ECAP will only contact applicants who meet the qualifications. Deadline for submission is March 2, 2007.

CREW REQUIREMENTS UNTIL JUNE 2007 TO MAN ANOTHER 70 VESSELS

Our Principal *Marlow Navigation* is urgently needing the following positions for our modern Container vessels and bulk carriers:

Master	from US$5,115. –	6 mos. Contract
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2nd Mate	from US$2,640. –	10 mos. Contract
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Chief Engr	from US$4,950. –	6 mos. Contract
2nd Engr	from US$3,795. –	8 mos. Contract
3rd Engr	from US$2,640. –	10 mos. Contract
Electrician	from US$3,019. –	10 mos. Contract
C/Cook	from US$1,378. – to US$1,486. –	10 mos. Contract
Ck/B (AB/Ck)	from US$1,067. –	10 mos. Contract
Bosun/Fitter	from US$1,105. – to US$1,213. –	10 mos. Contract
K/AB	from US$1,004. –	10 mos. Contract
AB/Oiler	from US$903. –	10 mos. Contract
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GERMAN TANKER

2/Off	US$2,970. –
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1431 A. Mabini St.,
Ermita, Manila
e-mail: recruitment@crewserve.com.ph
POEA Lic. 250-SB-061604-R**

**Galant Maritime Services, Inc.
1101 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila
PIC: C/M Norman Miranda
PIC: C/M Chito Mendoza
e-mail: recruitment galant@marlow.com.ph
Tel. # 525-6092; 526-6888 loc 115
POEA Lic. 108-SB-091603-R**

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The Office of the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Manila and the concurrent Managing Agent of the Joint UN Programme on HIV and Migration is seeking applications from competent candidates to fill the post of:

PROGRAMME ASSOCIATE (PA)
FOR THE JOINT UN PROGRAMME ON HIV AND MIGRATION

Under the overall supervision of the Chair and the members of the Joint UN Programme Steering Committee and the technical guidance of the National Professional Programme Personnel (NPPP) on STI / HIV / AIDS, the Programme Associate will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Participate in the finalization of the overall Joint UN Programme on HIV and Migration document, including its programme areas by compiling and analyzing information in the areas of concern of the Joint Programme.
2. Coordinate the overall Joint Programme activities, establish and implement mechanisms which are jointly developed with other UN agencies to systematically assess the achievement of results, conduct field visits, participate in review of meetings and evaluation mission, and prepare regular inputs to status and progress reports;
3. Provide technical support in the coordination between the Lead UN agencies and the other UN participating agencies providing technical assistance to the Joint Programme.
4. Lead in the implementation of the advocacy and resource mobilization strategies of the Joint UN Programme on HIV and Migration including compiling relevant background materials for use in the discussions and public events;
5. Contribute to the creation and sharing of knowledge by synthesizing and documenting findings and lessons learned, success stories and best practices, strategies and approaches of the Joint UN Programme on HIV and Migration and drafting relevant materials for dissemination;
6. Participate and provide inputs in the analysis of the basic factors affecting the achievement of results, in the recommendation of corrective actions and in the follow up on the recommendations;
7. Establish and maintain network of donor and public information contacts and provide assistance in organizing and conducting donor meetings and public information events;
8. Involve in the monitoring and evaluation of the outputs specified in the Joint UN Programme document;
9. Provide feedback on the completion of outputs submitted by the Lead UN agencies and the Lead Government Implementing Partners to the NPPP and the Chair of the Joint Programme Steering Committee;
10. Coordinate meetings of the Joint Steering Committee;
11. Provide secretariat support, including documentation, communications and activity reports during project-related meetings and workshops; and,
12. Perform other duties that may be assigned by the UNFPA Representative.

Qualifications:

- Must be a graduate of a Health/Social Science course preferably with a Master's Degree in Public Health/Public Administration/Business Administration/Social Science;
- Must have at least five (5) years experience on HIV and AIDS program formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (government or non-government);
- Familiarity with UN rules and procedures is an asset;
- Have a comprehensive understanding and knowledge of local and global HIV/AIDS issues and concerns;
- Must have good interpersonal and communication skills;
- Demonstrate and promote teamwork, integrity and impartiality in all matters affecting his/her work;
- Willing to travel to programme sites;
- Must be highly proficient in word processing, spreadsheets, PowerPoint and other current software; and
- Must be fluent in English.

Applicants are requested to sent their application letters indicating post title together with a completed UN Personal History Form (P11), available in www.unfpa.org/about/employment/documents/p-11 to: The Country Representative, United Nations Population Fund, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, 1229 Makati City, Philippines or through email: jtraquina@unfpa.org.ph. All questions related to the announcement must be sent to Mr. Roberto P. Manongdo of UNFPA Manila by email: rmanongdo@unfpa.org.ph.

We will only be able to respond to those applicants in whom UNFPA has a further interest. UNFPA is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to appoint at the indicated or lower level and prior to the closing date.

This is a project-funded post.
Salary Range: Php 50,000-55,000/month
Duration of employment: Initially three (3) months with a possible extension up to twelve (12) months renewable on a yearly basis up to three (3) years
Deadline for submission of applications: 11 March 2007

The Asia Foundation
Internal Auditor

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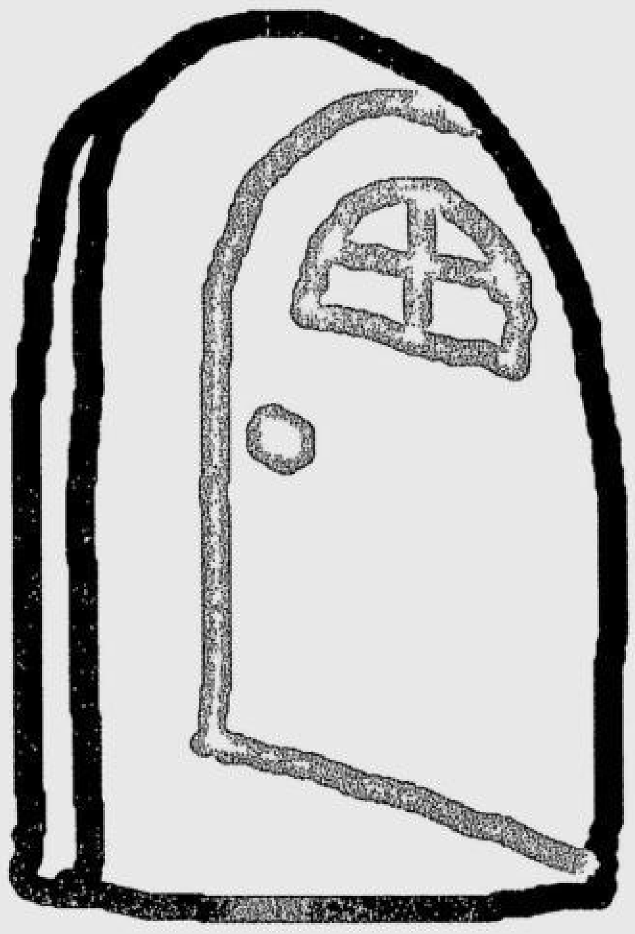

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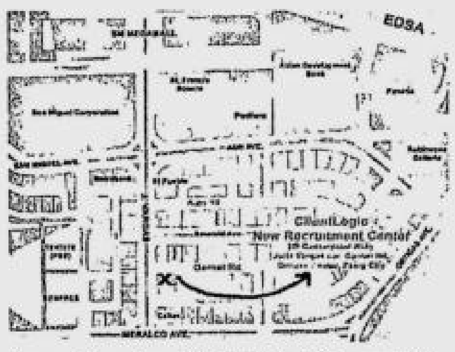

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'I'm still jobless a year after graduation, how do I get a job?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

I GRADUATED WITH AB Management from a university in Manila in March 2006. Until now, I am jobless and I feel so discouraged. I don't want to see my friends and classmates who all have jobs now. I don't want to attend family affairs because I'm always asked where I'm working. I was just an average student with average grades. I have already sent my resumé to 28 companies. Only 12 called me for an interview but I never got any second interview. I am losing my self-confidence because of my joblessness. What shall I do to get a job?

Mr. Jobless

I can see how your frustration at not getting a job after almost a year since your graduation, can overwhelm you with sadness, discouragement and embarrassment, such that you are withdrawing from people who will likely ask you about your job. In our society, our identity comes from what we do for a living and where we do it. So, what can you do while waiting for the right job for you? Before I proceed, let me suggest that you don't avoid social contacts. To do so will only further erode your self-esteem. If asked what your job is and where you work, simply state, with a straight and smiling face, that you are still looking for the right job suited for you.

Then proceed with your job hunt.

First. Take a look again at your resumé and see how you can improve it, in content and appearance. Look at a good book or browse through the Internet on resumé writing and go about improving your resumé. Make good copies of your resumé for distribution to your network. Getting the right job is worth the expense of reproducing your resumé and giving it to as many people or companies that can lead you to the right job.

Second. Find out why you weren't called for a second interview. What did you say when you were asked the frequently asked questions such as: "What are your strengths?" "Your weaknesses?" "Why should we hire you?" etc.

How did you answer these questions? Reading about job interviews, how to answer frequently asked questions, etc. can help you discover what you need to improve. Adapt your answers to the questions likely to be asked and memorize them. Then practice your answers until you can say them confidently.

Third. List down sources of information of job vacancies. The following are good sources:

1. Job market pages of newspapers such as those in the Sunday Inquirer.

2. Public Employment Service Office (Peso) of your city government. They hold job fairs. Know the schedules and dates of these fairs. The Peso has a list of job vacancies that are posted. In addition, go to the Bureau of Employment Service of the Department of Labor for more leads on job vacancies.

3. Alumni Office of your school. Ask the staff to help you. Give them copies of your resumé. You can also go to your professors and ask for their help. Again, give them copies of your resumé.

4. Relatives and friends, and friends of your parents and siblings. They form your network. Let them know you are looking for the right job and give them copies of your resumé.

5. Go online and search company homepages and job centers.

6. Look in the yellow pages of the telephone directories and make "cold calls."

The right job

What is the right job for you? Ideally, the right job is one that is in line with your chosen career. The right career is one that fits your interests, your aptitudes and skills. An AB Management degree have probably equipped you with knowledge and skills which should be included in your resumé and which could be the basis of identifying entry level jobs available to college graduates, in general, or those with a major in management. Identify and analyze the job positions open for people with your background. List these entry level jobs. Do not simply say "I'm looking for any job." Rather, you say, "I'm looking for an entry level job as a bookkeeper or telemarketer or customer service representative or sales representative or medical representative..."

Good self-image

Fourth. Develop a positive self-image. This is an area that you need to give importance to because a low self-worth, brought about by frustrations, can affect your job hunt, now, your work performance later, and your career progress eventually. A job applicant who withdraws from or avoids people, who applies for "any" job, who is unprepared for job interviews because he thinks that "They'll not like me," etc. is showing signs of a low self-image.

What should you do to feel good about yourself now? To develop a positive self-image, I suggest the following: One: Set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable and Time-Bound) goals that you can achieve immediately and daily. Your long-term goal is to be employed in the right job in the right company and in the right industry (banking, healthcare, hotel/restaurant, manufacturing, etc.). Doing so, will make you feel good about yourself.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Examples of daily SMART goals:

- On Monday, I will surf the Internet to provide me with knowledge to improve my resumé.
- On Tuesday, I will print an attractive and complete resumé and have 20 good photocopies of it.
- On Wednesday, I will give copies of my resumé to 10 persons who, in turn, can give them to the recruitment staff of the companies where they work.
- On Thursday, I will read about job interviews, know FAQs and the answers to these. I will adapt the answers to these questions and write these down.
- On Friday, I will memorize and role-play with myself [better yet, with your friend] how to answer these questions.

1. Make a practice of setting daily SMART goals that are challenging yet achievable by exerting your best efforts. Setting these SMART goals will motivate you and give meaning to your daily life. Achieving these goals will make you feel good about yourself, and boost your self-confidence.

2. Volunteer your service to your community (such as your barangay, homeowners' association), church, hospital, etc. Whatever you volunteered to do, do it faithfully, consistently and well. Make the people you work with value your presence when you do a good job and are dependable. Doing volunteer work well with no expectation of payment, will increase your self-worth. In addition, volunteer work will look good in your resumé, and give you names to put in your list of references when asked.

3. Hone your emplo-yability skills. Study, practice and refine your (a) communication skills—speaking and writing in grammatically correct English, reading with comprehension, listening and understanding the other person, etc.; and (b) computer skills. These skills are very useful in all careers, invest in these. Update your resumé to include your added competencies.

4. Read Bible passages that describe the value of every person to God and His great love for each one. Be guided by His Word on how to conquer despair, discouragement, self-doubts, etc. Try reflecting on Isaiah 41:10,13-16; Isaiah 43:19; Jeremiah 1:17-19; John 14:1; etc.

5. Read self-help books on self-motivation and self-management. Try Bo Sanchez's "Your Past Does Not Define Your Future," Roseanne Romero's "Amazing Grace," Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," Bruce Wilkinson's "The Secret of the Vine," etc. Invest and enroll in self-empowerment programs such as Dale Carnegie's How to Win Friends and Influence People.

Be optimistic you will get the right job. When you do find it, exert your utmost by working hard, doing excellent work by exceeding standards, working as a team player, aligning with your superior, etc. This is another topic which you will do well to read about in good books, now, as part of your preparation. As you can see, there are many productive things you can do so that you have no time for self-pity.

God bless you. Pray to Him to make a way for you to get the right job and career.

(The author is a professional psychologist, counselor, coach and management consultant. She is president of Career Systems Inc., a management, organization and human resource development company.)

Gospel: Luke 4: 1-13

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

National Migrants Sunday

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WHILE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAILS OUR MIGRANT workers as the *mga bagong bayani* (modern heroes) of our society, the Catholic Church looks at most of them who are believers, as "new evangelizers" of the Christian faith—giving witness to their Catholic faith in the foreign lands where they live and work. A day in the Liturgical calendar is set as National Migrants Sunday, to remind the faithful of this group of people and their families who go through special difficulties because of working abroad, living in a different culture and environment and separated from their loved ones and families. In focusing our attention on them this day, we are also reminded about how their work and ours too, can earn not only the bread we eat but also the "spiritual food" which could nourish our faith and our relationship with God and others.

Unfortunately, most of our migrant workers were forced to leave their homes because of extreme poverty and lack of sufficient work opportunities. The dire need for food and better pay would drive many of them to work very hard, endure the heavy burden of labor and bear the pains of separation from the loved ones and consequently, would more often forget their innate need for the spiritual nourishment of their being.

There is need therefore for them to be reminded that deep within us we hunger also for the word of God as much as, if not more than, the physical food we work so hard for. We tell our migrant workers then, that they are not just "super bread winners" for their families, or simply valuable assets for our national economic growth, but that they could also proclaim God's love and care through their work done with faith and love. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The heart of fasting

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WHATEVER WORK WE MAY BE DOING, TEMPTATIONS ABOUND IN the workplace. The temptation of Christ while He was fasting in the desert can find parallels in our work life here and now, although the devil may never appear to us horned and tailed. He may virtually lodge himself in our coworkers—using their bodies, their speech, their minds, their charm—presenting them as our allies while goading us on to our undoing. Whatever our position at work, the devil always crafts something to match our wits and inflame our ego. When in conscience we want to do what's right, the devil eggs us on to do what's "better."

A newcomer in the office wants to go straight home from work, but his officemates try to lure him to the videoke bar, "Why won't you join us? Afraid of the missus? Show her who's boss!" A purchasing officer diligently tries to avoid unnecessary spending, but his staff tease, "Management trusts you so much you can buy anything and not be questioned. *Kaya mo iyan, pare!*" A pretty secretary is bugged by her colleagues to ask the boss for a birthday blowout, "He can't say no to you, we all think you're his pet so go for it!"

Like Christ, fasting in the desert, we can all stand firm against temptation. Fasting the Jesus way is poverty by choice, a willful "no" to our appetites, an act of love that in time fortifies us against forces that seek to destroy us. It's a mystery how fasting is linked to love and then to grace, but like all other mysteries, it must be taken to heart so that it can let us into its heart. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Power napping in the office

SLEEPING ON THE JOB GOES against hundreds of years of American capitalism, but businesses here are flirting with "power naps," 20-30 minute siestas that many Europeans enjoy.

Not surprisingly, other businesses see the power nap as an opportunity to sell chairs, cocoons, pods and other devices.

Take Yarde Metals, specializing in metal sales and distribution, whose 640 employees work round-the-clock, many running heavy equipment, like fork lifts.

Such shops usually have a break room, vending machine snacks and coffee. Yarde has its own "Serenity Suite" at its headquarters in the Northeastern US state of Connecticut.

"It takes the nap to the next level," spokeswoman Susan Kozikowski said. "It's full stress management. The room has sky-blue walls to give the illusion of floating, and the 'Z-lounge.' "It's a wide chair in a zero-gravity napping position," she said.

"Twenty minutes on this Z-lounge is equivalent to two hours of traditional meditation and four hours of sleep." That is important for night workers, their health, safety and even productivity, she said.

"We run three shifts, people of different ages, some people working more than one job, they have children. For various reasons, for health reasons, they are tired and they need a break," she said.

A long-term study of Greek men and women published last week in the Archives of Internal Medicine showed that 30-minute mid-day naps can dramatically reduce heart disease.

"The study makes sense," said Washington University psychiatry professor Peter Vita-liano.

"There is a huge difference in how napping is accepted in Mediterranean countries—like Greece, Italy and Spain—versus the cutthroat, boiler-room pressure to be competitive in the United States," said the Seattle professor.

"Here, if a person naps, people say, 'You lazy slob.' There they say, 'Did you have a good nap?' "

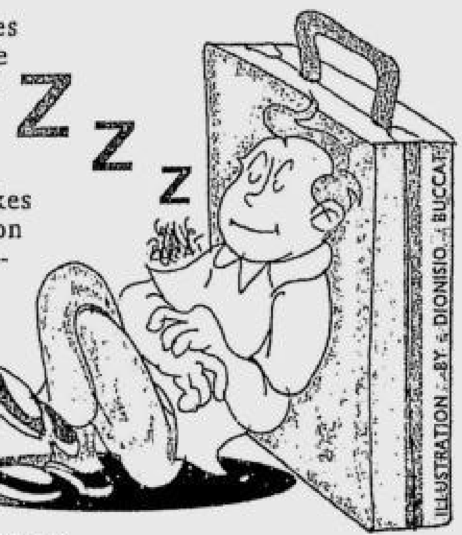

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

First to adopt the siesta were transportation businesses, airlines and railroads. Some hospitals, universities and publicity agencies set aside a nap room.

"Here in the US it's more work-oriented and they don't really grasp the concept of a good siesta yet as in Europe and Latin countries," said Iarl Grant, executive assistant of Strawberryfrog, a New York advertising agency founded in the Netherlands. Grant said companies give employees 10-minute cigarette breaks but have no place for a 10-minute nap. Strawberryfrog has been using a sleep pod for a year, with headphones.

"Every one uses it," he said. "It's a really valuable tool. It's become a natural part of the day." The sleep pod was created by MetroNaps specifically for workplaces.

"It blocks out enough light and enough sound to get rest even in a busy workplace," said MetroNaps co-founder Arshad Chowdhury.

"You can nap in a dignified position with some privacy," he said. "It's not flat so people who take a nap are not lying in a fetal position.

Nobody wants to be seen in a fetal position at work," said Chowdhury.

"You don't mess up your coat, your hair, you can get right back to work." "You won't oversleep," he said, "vibration and a light wake you up." Chowdhury rents the chairs for $14 for half an hour in New York's Empire State Building.

Some rules on pod use apply, depending on the employer. "Of course all have one rule in common, which is only one napper per pod."

AFP

Welfare of HSWs should be 'depoliticized'

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Secretary Arturo D. Brion urged interest groups to assist in preventing the misuse of the disadvantaged overseas household service workers (HSWs) for political purposes.

"They – the HSWs – should in no way be misused to gain dubious political leverage or advantage by any sector relative to the conduct of the elections in the near future," he said, adding, "the whole matter involving the welfare of HSWs and their families must at all times be depoliticized."

"Misusing our OFWs for dubious political intents, we believe, would not only cheapen but constitute a disservice to these noble, sacrificing persons whom we honor – both in national spirit, and under our laws — as our modern day heroes," Brion said.

"Instead, we call on the responsible sectors to support us in this effort, that is, to improve globally the protection, conditions, and welfare of our OFWs particularly the most disadvantaged among them, who are the HSWs."

He clarified that the matter of ensuring the conditions of the HSWs, and pursuing better protected employment for them through the government's reform package, is not a case of "wrong timing."

"The matter of ensuring better conditions for our HSWs is not only long overdue, but simply essential at all times, reinforcing human dignity and helping to stimulate the progress of the OFW host, and local, economies."

In fact, he said, the global acceptability of the new standards is now being corroborated by an increasing number of host countries that are sending in job orders under the new $400 minimum salary for HSWs.

"We are puzzled as to why some sectors would oppose such essential and overdue measures, and even use the HSWs for politically oriented activities, but somehow, we are inclined to be enlightened on the apprehension facing the HSW recruitment industry that the reforms could be detrimental to business," he added.

In response, Brion has already assured the HSW recruitment industry of the government's commitment to assist them in surmounting any challenges in adjusting to the new policies, adding, "such will be side-by-side with the paramount, if not greater necessity, of uplifting the protection, welfare, and employment of Filipino HSWs globally."

The Labor Chief said that while the law fully respects the rights of all our OFWs globally to participate in the democratic decision making processes, including the exercise of the right to suffrage, this is with responsibility and never for divisive, partisan purposes, much less for misinformation and muckraking.

Save the Children®

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide. Save the Children aims to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents by mobilizing communities in projects directed at improving children's health, education and economic opportunities. Save the Children Philippines Country Office has been operating in the Philippines for nearly 25 years and has operations and projects in West Visayas, Metro Manila, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Central Mindanao. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for the:

ASCEND Mindanao

(Assistance for the Comprehensive Educational Development of Mindanao)

ASCEND Mindanao, an implementing partner of the USAID-funded EQuALLS (Education Quality and Access to Learning and Livelihood Skills) project that seeks to increase access to quality basic and livelihood skills education among children and youth in the poorest, conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, is urgently seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Curriculum Specialist – Math Education

(Code: ASCEND CS-Math)

Curriculum Specialist–Science Education

(Code: ASCEND CS-Science)

The Curriculum Specialist – Mathematics Education and Curriculum Specialist – Science Education will report to the ASCEND Mindanao Program Director for administrative purposes and to the Pacific Resources for Education & Learning (PREL) Project Team for technical guidance in matters related to curriculum development. S/he will be based in Mindanao and serve as the Mathematics or Science subject specialist respectively on a three-person team that will undertake English-Science-Math (ESM) teacher training and professional development to improve the quality of education in the public elementary schools and pilot madaris in the municipalities served by ASCEND Mindanao. S/he will work collaboratively to research, design, adapt, and deliver effective professional development in ESM instruction/ curriculum and assessment theory and methods to administrators, specialists, and teachers for the primary purpose of improving student achievement in selected elementary classrooms in Mindanao. S/he will provide technical assistance, written reports, professional development and research as needed and will be expected to contribute journal articles, briefing papers, etc. in relevant topic areas.

Key duties and responsibilities include:

- Plan for and provide professional development and technical assistance activities consistent with accepted principles of effective professional development and in direct support of project objectives and plans
- Work closely with the US-based team of PREL curriculum specialists in designing and delivering teacher professional development programs for English-Science-Math instructional improvement, using an Integrated Investigation approach
- Conduct assessment of the training needs of teachers based on direct feedback from teachers and classroom observation
- Provide initial train-the-trainer workshops to education faculty from selected Mindanao-based teacher education institutions, DepEd subject supervisors, and school-based master teachers on the content and instructional guidelines of the new science, math, and English curricula
- Conduct follow-on cluster-based or school-based teacher training workshops, mini-institutes and other forms of teacher professional development activities
- Create mentor teams consisting of University faculty, DepEd staff, and experienced teachers to provide ongoing support and technical assistance to teachers in the public elementary schools and pilot madaris
- Establish systems for monitoring the use and application of the curricula and instructional materials
- Establish student baseline and achievement data to evaluate progress in meeting DepEd minimum competencies.
- Coordinate with the EQuALLS 2 coordinating agency and other EQuALLS 2 public-private alliances working on teacher/educator professional development
- Assist in the development and production of project reports and materials, including writing articles, developing professional development manuals, analyzing and summarizing qualitative data, etc.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Six years' experience in curriculum and instructional materials development and pre-service and/or in-service teacher education and training, preferably focused on area of specialization, i.e. **mathematics or science education**
- In-depth knowledge of area of specialization i.e. **mathematics or science education** and of inquiry-based teaching, learning and assessment
- In-depth knowledge of education improvement efforts and their implications in schools, classrooms, and communities including the use of data to inform school-based improvement initiatives
- Five years classroom teaching experience at the elementary level including experience in upper elementary grades
- Three years experience conducting professional development for teachers in mathematics
- Successful experience planning and leading professional development. Preference for those with experience in the development and implementation of school improvement plans and/or the development and use of standards-aligned school and classroom assessments.
- Extensive understanding and knowledge of contemporary research, evidence and practice in effective professional development and development models
- Extensive experience working in diverse schools and cultural contexts
- Experience in Mindanao education, particularly in the public basic education sector, preferred
- Has developed a network of contacts within the Mindanao academe and/or the public school system
- Demonstrated experience working as a member of a collaborative team, fostering team spirit and professionalism within a learning community, in both the planning and implementation of activities
- PhD desired, relevant Master's degree required; Master's degree in Education, Mathematics, or Math Education with a graduate or undergraduate specialization in mathematics
- Computer literate and adept in the use of MS Office software (Word, Excel, Powerpoint); demonstrated experience using computer-based software for word processing, presentation preparation, and electronic communication.
- A team player, willing to work long hours toward the attainment of project objectives and deliverables
- Willing to be based out of Davao City and travel frequently to project sites in Datu Piang, Maguindanao; Midsayap, North Cotabato; Talipao, Sulu; and Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur

For both positions, the successful applicant will be called upon to work in a variety of areas in addition to science. Preference will be given to applicants who have experience in one or more of the following:

- Standards-based teaching and learning of education specialization as indicated, i.e. math or science
- Developing and implementing performance and other authentic assessments at the classroom level
- Designing and implementing processes for collecting and utilizing data in support of planning for improvement and documenting project activities and their impact

Qualified applicants may send their resumes
By email: **HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org** (please indicate respective position code)
By mail – Save the Children Federation, Inc
(if in MetroManila) No. 1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila (Fax 632-853-0215)
(if in Mindanao) #8 Agno River St., Rivera Village. J.P. Rizal Laurel Avenue, Davao City (Fax: (082) 228-6076

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☐ Male/Female, must be CPA.
☐ Must have exposure on any one of the following areas: internal audit, cost or general accounting, financial analysis or planning, occupying a senior position (supervisor, officer or manager level).
☐ Fresh Graduates or CPAs are also welcome to apply.
☐ With excellent communication and analytical skills.

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANTS

☐ Female, 22-30 years old; Graduate of AB/BS Psychology or Behavioral Science or related courses.
☐ At least with 1 year experience on fast-paced recruitment, hiring and placement preferably from a manufacturing environment.
☐ With very good interpersonal and communication skills.

ECOZONE (PEZA) AGENT

☐ Male/Female, 24-35 years old; graduate of BS Customs Administration; preferably with license (but not required).
☐ Preferably with 2 years experience on import & export documentations. However, fresh graduates with good potentials are also encouraged to apply.
☐ Should be familiar with PEZA and Customs operational procedures.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR

☐ Male/Female, 30-40 years old; graduate of any IT, engineering or business course.
☐ Must have been an IT Director/Head or Manager for not less than 3 years, handling all IT functions; well-versed on IT project management and business solutions preferably gained from a large manufacturing or multinational concern.

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Save the Children®

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide. Save the Children aims to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents by mobilizing communities in projects directed at improving children's health, education and economic opportunities. Save the Children Philippines Country Office has been operating in the Philippines for nearly 25 years and has operations and projects in West Visayas, Metro Manila, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Central Mindanao. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for immediate hiring for a:

Project for the Early Recovery of Children affected by Typhoon Durian in Bicol

This project focuses on responding to the needs and concerns of children affected by Typhoon Durian that brought floods and landslides in late November 2006. Massive deaths, loss of livelihood, and destruction of homes and property of thousands of families have compromised the survival, development, protection and participation rights of children.

The project is intended to improve the children's well-being, participation in and access to psychosocial, education and health services in the early recovery phase of communities affected by Typhoon Durian and shall cover the period until December 2007.

Emergency Education Team Leader

(Code: Durian ETL - Bicol)

The Emergency Education Team Leader is responsible for overseeing the coordinated implementation of project activities and deliverables, with a particular focus on the components for capacity building, advocacy and networking and monitoring and evaluation. The Team Leader will also serve as Save the Children's main representative in key child-focused disaster coordination clusters. Responsible for supervising the work of the Education Coordinator and the Logistics / Administration Assistant and ensures that all job responsibilities are carried out.

Project activities for the emergency education program in Bicol include:

- Provide immediate recreational and learning activities for children that will assist in their coping and psychosocial recovery
- Develop the skills of children and significant adults in facilitating child-led initiatives towards disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness
- Build the capacity of local government units, local councils for the protection of children, parents and other stakeholders in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, with a particular focus on child protection
- Contribute to the repair and refurbishment of damaged public day care centres and public elementary schools in the target communities
- Coordinate and collaborate with government agencies and non-government organisations in facilitating the recovery of children and in strengthening their protection rights

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation

Other Competency Requirements

- Graduate of a social science, education or community development course
- Knowledge of and preferably comes from area of operation
- At least four years experience in implementing projects / programs related to psychosocial response, public school improvement, teacher or day care worker training, and/or early childhood development implementation
- Willing to work long hours; able to motivate team of staff / volunteers towards project deliverables
- Skills in advocacy, networking, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation
- Extensive experience in working with public school system, disaster response agencies, LGU, civil society groups
- Language skills: speak with community members; excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Computer skills: use of standard office software e.g. Word, Excel, Powepoint, Outlook / email software
- Willing to be based in Bicol for the duration of the project

Emergency Education Coordinator

(Code: Durian EC - Bicol)

The Emergency Education Coordinator is responsible for community mobilization, coordination and monitoring / follow up required for the on-time and effective delivery of emergency education activities in the target barangays. Project activities will revolve around the conduct of safe play activities for children; provision of play and learning materials to project-assisted day care centers and public elementary schools; repair / refurbishment of selected centers / schools; training of day care workers and teachers; and activation / strengthening of Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPC) in line with child-focused disaster preparedness.

The Emergency Education Coordinator shall report to the Emergency Education Team Leader and shall support the project activities as follows:

- Lead in front-line community mobilization to establish safe play groups, provide assistance to day care centers and public elementary schools, teacher / daycare worker/ play group facilitator training and BCPC activation
- Identify and work with key stakeholders in evacuation centers and target barangays; coordinate with other NGOs or government agencies supporting related programs. participate in inter-agency child protection-focused disaster coordination meetings
- Conduct community meetings, home visits and other mobilization efforts
- Assist in procurement, delivery and/or turnover of project materials / assistance, ensuring transparency and accountability
- Assist in project capacity building activities for safe play facilitators, teachers / day care workers, and BCPC members
- Conduct periodic monitoring and follow up visits to SC assisted safe play groups, day care centes and public elementary schools
- Prepare weekly work plans and submit periodic reports

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation

Other Competency Requirements

- Graduate of a social science, education or community development course or equivalent tin training and experience
- Knowledge of and preferably comes from area of operation
- At least two years experience in implementing projects / programs related to psychosocial response, public school improvement, teacher or day care worker training, and/or early childhood development implementation
- Willing to work long hours; able to motivate team of staff / volunteers towards project deliverables
- Skills in community organizing, community mobilization, and capacity building
- Extensive experience in working with communities, youth volunteers, barangay leaders and other stakeholders
- Language skills: speak with community members; excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Computer skills: use of standard office software e.g. Word, Excel, Powepoint, Outlook / email software
- Willing to be based in Bicol for the duration of the project

Logistics – Administrative Assistant

(Code: Durian LAA - Bicol)

The Logistics – Administrative Assistant is responsible for

- Reporting to the Education Team Leader and the Deputy Director for Finance and Administration (National Office) on project requirements relating to financial reporting, logistics, administration and human resources
- Ensures that support services needed by the project are efficiently and delivered on time within office policies and guidelines.

Specific Duties

1. Handles the local procurement and delivery of project requirements following project timetable, budget and SC policies and procedures
2. Ensure SC policies and procedures are understood and adhered to in payment processing, financial transaction documentation, cash advance process, bank reconciliation, and fixed assets register
3. Ensures accurate and timely preparation and recording of regular financial and administration reports
4. Ensures the efficient availability of facilities and equipment administration and upkeep, canvassing, office supplies and mail

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation

Other Competency Requirements: Concern for accuracy, Respect for Confidentiality, Time management , Accounting, Analytical skills, Basic computer skills, Compliance. Awareness of allied organizations, Company knowledge

Qualified applicants may send their resumes
By email: **HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org** (please indicate respective position code)
By mail – Save the Children Federation, Inc.
No. 1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila (Fax 632-853-0215)

DOLE reports crackdown of illegal workers in CNMI

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) warned Filipino workers from seeking jobs in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) without passing through proper channels following a crackdown of overstaying foreign workers in the Commonwealth.

The CNMI is a territory of the United States in the Western Pacific, which is nearer to the Philippines than the US mainland. It consists of 14 islands, the biggest of which are Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Saipan, in a report to Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, said that the CNMI Department of Labor has recently published a list of nonresident workers (NRWs) who are illegally staying and subsequently facing deportation from the Commonwealth.

Filipino labor representative Joan Lourdes Lavilla in Saipan said that the list consisted of names of foreign workers whose contracts have expired and who failed to find jobs within the 45-day transfer period and yet continued to remain in the CNMI. The list also contained a public notice warning employers to refrain from hiring the listed individuals

Citing CNMI Press Secretary Charles Reyes, Jr., from the same report, Lavilla said that the list contains some 1,000 names of individuals from China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, etc.

Accordingly, individuals incorrectly listed were given a grace period to clarify their immigration status. Companies were also advised to inform the CNMI Labor Department on their workers who were included in the list. Foreign workers who were in the list faced deportation while employers who continuously employing listed individuals would be meted fines, penalties, and debarment from hiring NRWs.

He advised Filipinos not to be lured by unscrupulous individuals and agencies who may promise them jobs in the CNMI or any other country, overseas without the acquisition of proper documents such as job contracts and work visa.

Ecop vows reforms in employment sector in annual conference

THE COUNTRY'S LEADING EMployers' business advocacy organization is bent on making possible sweeping reforms towards greater competitiveness and institutional partnerships in the employment sectors.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) vowed to raise as its centerpiece agenda in its 28th annual employers conference on May 20-21, 2007, a comprehensive advocacy program to reach out to the entire spectrum of entrepreneurs and workers in both the informal and formal sectors.

"Employers all over the country cannot afford to lose out on this opportunity to extend the hand of cooperation to all Filipino entrepreneurs, regardless of size and trade, and finally come up with a win-win formula for stability in the employment, wage and business fronts," said Alfredo M. Yao, Chairman of Zest-O Corporation and of the 28th National Conference of Employers (NCE XXVIII) Organizing Committee.

Yao said the recent debates on the P125 wage increase are telltale signs of a worsening employment and labor situation. Ecop, he added, is committed to utilizing this year's conference to sound the clarion call for unity of all stakeholders, including wage workers and those in the informal sector to develop lasting solutions that would generate more jobs and create wealth for the Filipino people.

Ecop President Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis, Jr. expressed confidence that the conference's call for competitiveness, partnerships and reforms would initiate strategic collaboration among the businesses and government agencies for more responsible, responsive, and forward-looking economic policies. He said that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who is expected to personally speak before and accept the conference's resultant Ecop Agenda for Competitiveness, is fully endorsing the event.

"We believe that this is the proper direction to take for all entrepreneurs and employers with genuine concern for the future of our country," said Ortiz-Luis, as he announced the participation of national and international business experts and labor advocacy pacesetters from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the International Labor Organization (ILO), e-Telecare and the Lopez Group of Companies. Also to expected to speak on major policy issues are DOLE Secretary Arturo Brion and other key government leaders.

The NCE XXVIII is expected to gather at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel hundreds of participants representing various employer and business organizations from all over the country.

Drive against illegal recruitment strengthened

THE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE LOCAL governments against illegal recruitment shall be intensified this year with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) spearheading the campaign, Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said.

Brion cited Executive Order No. 548-A promulgated recently by the President which reiterated the anti-illegal functions of the POEA as mandated by RA 8042 or the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995.

The order, thus, amended and superseded the previous EO which created a task force against illegal recruitment under the supervision of the Commission of Filipino Overseas (CFO), Brion said.

He clarified, however, that the CFO shall be in charged of the task force against human trafficking (TFHT) as provided for by EO 548-A.

EO 548-A, he stressed, redefined in clearer terms the functions of POEA and CFO in the fight against illegal recruitment and human trafficking.

"This shall enable the POEA in coordination with the regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment to ensure greater focus in fighting illegal recruiters down to the local level," he said.

Brion said that the executive order underscored the on-going campaign of POEA to involve local government units (LGUs) in the fight against illegal recruiters.

He said that the agency has begun forging agreements with LGUs in Metro Manila late last year, particularly with the city governments of Taguig, Valenzuela, Malabon, Mandaluyong, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa and Quezon City.

The agreements, he said, call for the active participation of the concerned local government authorities in surveillance and investigation of establishments and entities suspected of engaging in illegal recruitment in their respective jurisdiction.

The labor chief said that POEA is set to forge similar agreements with other LGUs in Metro Manila and other regions this year in line with Executive Order No. 548-A and RA 8042.

Pursuant to the law, POEA shall continue to adopt policies and procedures and implement programs towards the eradication of illegal recruitment. The agency shall also coordinate with the TFHT, along with and other government agencies and the CFO which serves as task force chair, in addressing the problem on human trafficking.

As TFHT chair, the CFO shall recommend to the inter-agency council against trafficking (IACAT) policies, programs, and services aimed at eliminating trafficking in persons.

The IACAT is the primary body tasked to coordinate, monitor, and oversee the implementation of programs against trafficking in persons as provided for by RA No. 9208, otherwise known as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

ANOTHER YEAR FOR PMAP & CHINATRUST

The People Management Association of the Philippines, the premier organization of Human Resource Practitioners and People Managers inks MOA with Chinatrust to be its Major Partner for 2007. Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank , a foreign owned bank with an all-Filipino senior management team, has successfully built over the last 5 years a market-leading personal loan portfolio and a segment-focused mortgage business. Shown (from left) are PMAP Executive Director Gerry Plana, PMAP Treasurer Julie Miteria, Chinatrust SVP Jo Natividad, PMAP President Mark Go, Chinatrust President Joey Bermudez, PMAP Past Pres Lina Aseneta, Chinatrust FVP Owen Maramag and Chinatrust HR Head VP Evie Abraham.

PMAP, DOLE DISCUSS LABOR THRUSTS

The People Management Association of the Philippines (formerly Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) and the Department of Labor and Employment recently discussed labor thrusts for 2007. In a courtesy call made by the new officers of PMAP, headed by its President Mark Go to DOLE Secretary Arturo Brion, the two groups shared viewpoints on the country's current Labor issues such as the PMAP proposed labor code revision, mediation, recruitment, employment, subcontracting, National HR Agenda, wages, HR Summit and foreign employment.

PMAP PARTNERS WITH PDI IN DELIVERING GREAT RESULTS

The People Management Association of the Philippines (formerly Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) partners with The Philippine Daily Inquirer in delivering great results for 2007 as they signed a Memorandum of Agreement in media partnership last Jan. 31, at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. In photo are PMAP Ways and Means Committee Chairperson Lina A. Aseneta, FPM, PMAP President Mark O. Go, FPM, PR and Publicity Chairperson Grace Rallos-Bakunawa, PMAP 2006 Director and Phil. Daily Inquirer AVP for Marketing Jesse Rebustillo and PMAP Treasurer Julie M. Miteria.

Philippine Urological Association marks 50th year

TO SUSTAIN ITS MISsion and vision statements of bringing urological care to the Filipinos, the Philippine Urological Association, Inc. (PUA) will conduct a year-long series of activities as part of its 50th anniversary celebration.

The PUA manpower program has continued to identify areas where urologists are needed and where their services are most wanted while the prostate health committee and the outreach committee have pooled their resources to reach to more areas, bringing with them the urological surgical services combined with parallel screening and educational programs to be able to reach more Filipinos in need in urologist-less places.

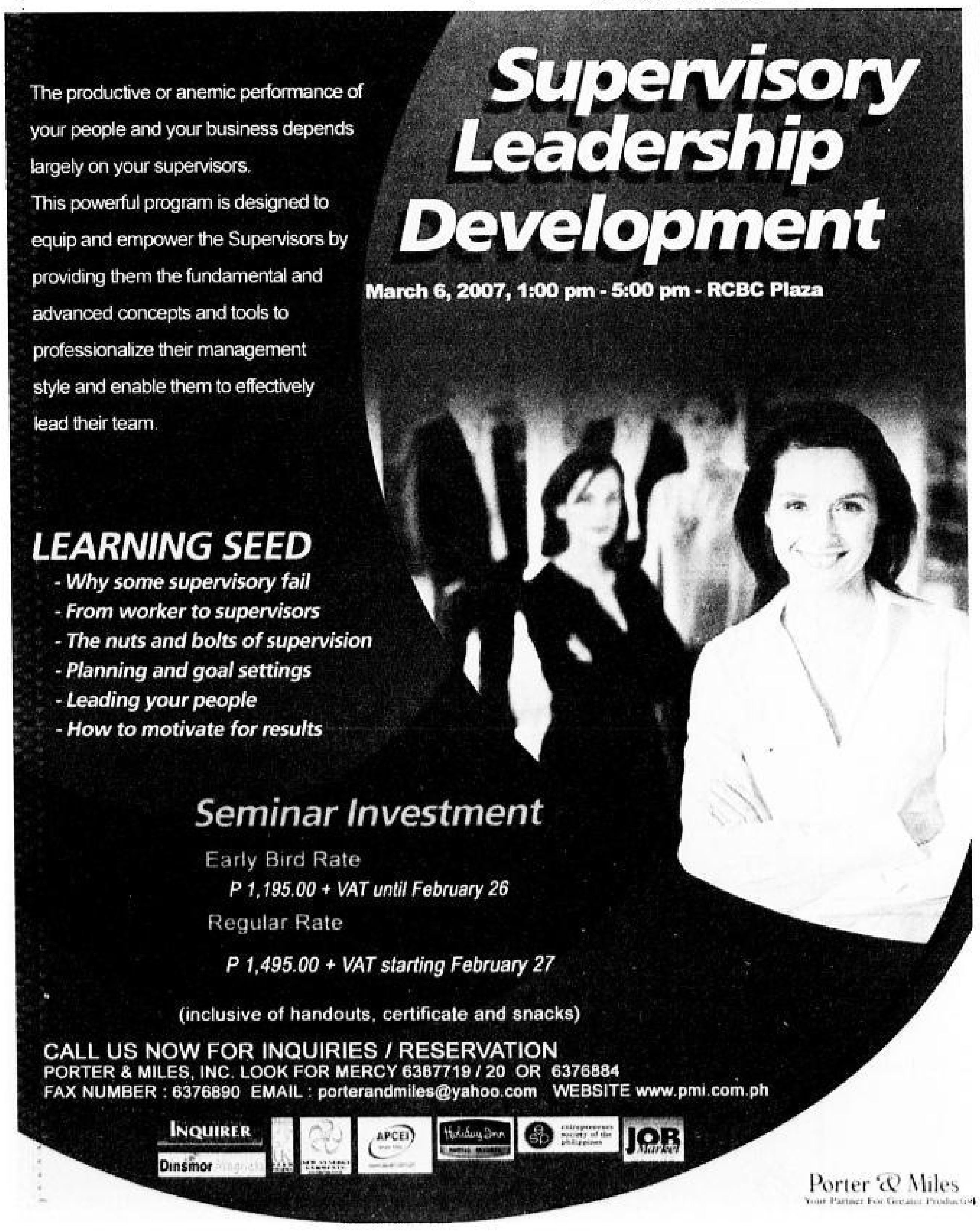
PUA has also lined up a series of academic, scientific, and outreach programs aimed at informing the public of what the urologist is, and how he could help them. PUA hopes to convey this message and to increase the public's urologic disease awareness through articles via the tri-media starting this month. Its anniversary theme, "Ask Your Urologist, He'll Know!" is meant to encourage visits to the urologists.

The association was formed 50 years ago by 15 urologists who incorporated themselves into the country's premier urological group. Since then, its membership grew to 270 spread all over the country. There are nine training institutions in Metro Manila, another in Cebu City and another in Davao City.

In recent years, PUA has gained international respect and recognition by staging international urological meetings in Manila and in Cebu City. By November this year during its golden anniversary celebration and annual convention, it will host two simultaneous Asia-Pacific Urological annual regional conferences, the 15th Federation of ASEAN Urological Association's Meeting and the 7th Asia-Pacific Society of Uro-Oncologist Meeting. Visit PUA website at www.puanet.org.ph for more details about its golden anniversary celebration.

THE NEW HORIZON HOTEL

"The Boutique European Inspired Hotel" located at Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City with the new management is ready to face the challenges of meeting their guests' expectation attending their first training and workshop on "Managing quality guest service with the power of service excellence" on Feb. 07-08, held at Brussels' Function Room conducted by the seasoned hotelier and consultant Rafael S. Chico as the resource person with workshop facilitator Cherry Moquia of Interlink Manpower Development. Photo shows (seated from left) are Mariano Alcantara-executive housekeeper, Celeste de Vera-HR/ Admin manager, Marc Kerckhofs – GM, Ina Kerckhofs – sales and marketing manager, Rene Garcia – front office manager and behind are supervisors and rank-and-file employees from different departments.



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(1) Executive Secretary
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Qualifications:
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✓ College graduate with at least 5 years work experience in a consulting firm
✓ Proficient in English (both oral and written communication)
✓ Experience working with expats preferred
✓ Excellent writing / editing skills and multi-tasking abilities an advantage

Applicants for both positions must be ready to start work by March 2007.

(3) Transport Engineers
(4) Water Resources / Water Supply Engineers
Qualifications:
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✓ Computer literacy and proficiency preferred
✓ Excellent English communication skills
✓ Expatriate candidates must be Manila-based

Applicants to the above positions (1, 2, 3, 4) should send comprehensive CV with photo to: bbsaligumba@philkoei.com.ph

(5) Junior Civil Engineers (all fields of expertise)

Applicants to position (5) should send comprehensive CV to: mails@philkoei.com.ph

Or mail to:

PHILKOEI INTERNATIONAL, INC. (PKII)
International Consulting Group
4/F Pacific Star Building
Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200

MARKETING & LEASING MANAGER

- Not more than 40 years old;
- Marketing or any business course graduate;
- 2-3 years managerial experience in real estate & mall operations;
- Proven track records is a must;
- Has the ability to conceptualize & implement marketing, sales plans & strategies

LEASING OFFICER

- Between 22-35 years old;
- Graduate of Marketing or Advertising;
- Aggressive, success oriented & with pleasing personality;
- With at least 3 years experience in Real Estate;
- With good oral & written communication skills

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old;
- 1-2 years experience in admin operation of the mall;
- With accounting/engineering background

Interested applicants may come or send resumé to:

SHOPPERS PARADISE
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit I Garden Level, Corinthian Plaza
Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village,
Makati City
Fax No. 8113225

Ephesians
Publishing Incorporated

URGENTLY NEEDED
(1) GRAPHIC/LAY-OUT ARTIST
(2) ACCOUNTING STAFF

Preferably female at least 20-25 years old
Call up: 4558695/9272965
Email: ephesians_publishing@yahoo.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER

- College Graduate, preferably ECE
- No experience necessary, background in Semicon Industry an advantage
- Assertive personality
- Must possess excellent ability to Communicate in English (written and oral)
- Computer literate

Send Resumé with recent 2x2 picture to: Ortigas Post Office P.O. Box 13475

Home Guaranty Corporation

Notice of Vacant Positions

No. of Vacant Positions	Position Title, Unit	Salary Grade	Minimum Qualification Requirements Course
1	Internal Auditor III, Office of the Board of Directors	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Management / Economics or other related courses
1	Executive Vice President, Office of the President	29	Bachelor's Degree in Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Actuarial Science, Management, Accountancy, Marketing, Economics, or any other related course, preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Department Manager III, Corporate Planning Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses; preferably with Masters Units/Degree in a related course
1	Supervising Planning Specialist, Corporate Planning Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Planning Specialist, Corporate Plannning Department	16	Bachelor's Degree in Economics / Industrial Engineering / Urban Planning or other related courses
1	Planning Analyst, Corporate Planning Department	13	Bachelor's Degree
1	Information System Analyst I, MIS Department	16	Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Computer Engineering / Information Technology or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Litigation Department	26	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
3	Corporate Attorney IV, Litigation Department	23	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Corporate Attorney V, Legal Services Department	25	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; Master's Degree in a related course
2	Corporate Attorney IV, Legal Services Department	23	Bachelor of Laws; RA 1080; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
2	Supervising Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
2	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
3	Credit Guaranty Specialist, Business Dev. & Accts. Eval. Dept.	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Supervising Credit Guaranty Specialist, Accounts Management Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist, Accounts Management Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Risk Management Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Senior Credit Guaranty Specialist , Risk Management Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
3	Credit Guaranty Specialist , Risk Management Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Actuarial Science / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Acquired Assets Officer V, Asset Management Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Supervising Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Marketing Specialist, Marketing & Sales Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Bus. Administration / Engineering / Management / Accountancy / Marketing / Economics or other related courses
1	Supervising Trading Specialist, Treasury Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration and / or other related courses; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Senior Accounts Specialist, Treasury Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration and / or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Controllership Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting; preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course; CPA
1	Accountant IV, Controllership Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting; preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course; CPA
2	Accountant III, Controllership Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Commerce / Bus. Administration major in Accounting; CPA
1	Accounting Specialist II, Controllership Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Economics / Actuarial Science or other related courses
1	Budget Officer III, Controllership Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance / Commerce / Economics / Actuarial Science or other related courses
1	Department Manager III, Human Resources Department	26	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses preferably with Master's Units/Degree in a related course
1	Training Specialist IV, Human Resources Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Human Resource Management Officer IV, Human Resources Department	20	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses. preferably with at least 18 Master's units in a related course
1	Human Resource Management Officer III, Human Resources Department	18	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses
1	Human Resource Management Officer II, Human Resources Department	15	Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences / Public Administration / Industrial Management / Psychology or other related courses
45	Total No. of Vacant Positions		

- **In addition to the above qualifications, interested applicants must also possess the following:**

Salary Grade	Civil Service Eligibility	Years of Relevant Experience	
		Area of Specialization	Managerial / Supervisory
29	Career Executive Service Officer / Eligible	7	5
26	Career Executive Service Officer / Eligible	5	3
20 - 25	2nd Level (Professional) Eligibility or RA 1080, if required	3	-
16 - 18	2nd Level (Professional) Eligibility or RA 1080, if required	2	-
13 - 15	2nd Level (Professional) Eligibility	1	-

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumés, together with a description of the duties and responsibilities in their previous employment/s, not later than March 30, 2007, to:

THE PERSONNEL PLACEMENT COMMITTEE
c/o Ms. Corazon G. Corpuz
Office of the Vice President, Corporate Services Group
Home Guaranty Corporation
335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

MONTESSORI

THE SEED MONTESSORI SCHOOL
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Capitol District, Quezon City 1127

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

STAFF ASSISTANTS

Graduate of any 4-yr. degree course; has good communications skills; Computer literate

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Graduate of B.S. Accoutancy; Computer literate
Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply. Please submit your resumé at Unit 310, 3/F, Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City or email to admin@finex.org.ph
For inquiries, please call (02) 811-4052 or 811-4188

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Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

JOB Market COMPACT JOB Market

A Philippine based company formed in 2005, engaged in importation, marketing and distribution of food and herbal supplements is looking for the following:

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Requirements:

- Male, between 24-28 years old.
- With Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Administration.
- Computer literature (MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint)
- Proficient in oral and written communications skills.
- Willing to travel nationwide, work on extended hours.
- Personable, hardworking and creative.

UTILITY / MESSENGER

Requirements:

- Male, between 23-28 years old.
- At least College level.
- Physically fit and at least 5'6" tall.
- Hardworking and trustworthy.
- With technical skills, an advantage.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Requirements:

- Preferably Male, not more than 30 years old.
- Accountancy graduate.
- Minimum of 1 year in general accounting / cost accounting.
- Computer literate, background in any accounting software a plus.
- Willing to work on extended hours.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Requirements:

- Female, single, between 21 to 27 years old.
- Graduate of any business course.
- Computer literature (MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint)
- Proficient in oral and written communications skills.
- Pleasing personality.
- Hardworking, self-driven.
- Personable and smart.

Competitive salary awaits those who will qualify for the said positions. Qualified candidates are invited to send their comprehensive resumé to **resources2006@yahoo.com** or may apply online.

We will only respond to suitable candidates.

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We are recruiting talented engineers who thrive in an environment where change is normal, with a can-do attitude, who don't rattle easily and are excited to learn and prove their mettle.

Your Qualifications:

- You have difficulty sitting idle, you like taking action
- You have "OO" Analysis and Design skills beyond compare
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The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

DESK EDITOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

NETWORK ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate preferbaly Computer Engineering or ECE
- 1-2 years experience in a similar job
- Knowledge in e-mail and network administration, Linux, Windows 2000 or 2003 Server
- Database knowledge is a plus

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Accounting
- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in Accounts receivables and/or Credit and Collection work
- Knowledge of MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Can work under pressure and with minimum supervision

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree holder in Computer Science or Computer Engineering with a business background
- 1 to 2 years experience as systems analyst / programmer
- Must have work experience in Powerbuilder, MS SQL 2000, Sybase SQL or other Relational Database Management System. Knowledge in Visual Basic, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting is an advantage.
- Can work with minimal supervision

SERVICE ENGINEER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering / ECE
- 6 months to one year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations systems like Windows XP and Windows 2000/MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email Client, Adobe products, Troubleshooting Skills, Interpersonal & Communication Skills.
- Knowledge in network

HR CLERK

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate preferably major in Psychology or Behavioral Science
- With at least 6 months experience in recruitment or benefits process
- Service-oriented and can work in minimum supervision

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

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Applicants with their SSS and TIN IDs will be prioritized.

IBM Daksh, leader in Business Process Outsourcing, is now hiring qualified Customer Care Specialists who can start immediately.

Customer Care Specialists for our Fortune 500 Client Companies

- Must have completed at least 3 years of college education
- Must possess excellent command of oral and written English
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Experience in up-selling and cross-selling is an advantage
- Must be willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Customer Care Specialists for our Home Retail Account

- Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
- Work experience in Architecture, Interior Design or Civil Engineering is an advantage
- Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply
- Must possess excellent command of oral and written English
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must be willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Customer Care Specialists for our Consumer Banking Account

- Must be a graduate of a 4-year Finance or Business-related course
- Must have 6 months call center or banking industry experience
- Must possess excellent command of oral and written English
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Must be willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Customer Care Specialists – Multilingual

- Can proficiently speak any of the following languages:
  - French
  - Spanish
- Graduate of any Bachelor's Degree
- Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply or those who have no related prior work experience
- Must possess excellent oral and written English and corresponding foreign language communication skills
- Must be proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Has a strong drive to provide customer service and assistance
- Willingness to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment is a must

Support and Leadership Positions

Operations
- Operations Manager – Financial Account
- Team Leader – Operations

Information Technology
- Manager – IT Projects
- Assistant Manager – Data Network
- Technical Support Engineer
- Helpdesk Analyst

Quality
- Team Leads – Quality
- Sr. Associates – Quality

Recruitment
- Recruitment Associate

Workforce
- Assistant Manager – Workforce
- Sr. Associates and Leads – Workforce

Human Resources
- Manager – Employee Engagement
- Manager – Leadership Development
- Assistant Manager – Employee Relations
- Sr. Associate – HRIS

Finance
- Manager – Financial Planning
- Assistant Manager – Business Control
- Sr. Associate – Tax Analyst
- Sr. Associate – Fixed Asset Custodian
- Senior Financial Analysts

Strategic Quality
- Manager – BCP and Information System
- Manager – Project Management Review
- Assistant Manager – Six Sigma

Training
- Voice and Accent Trainers
- Product Trainers

Talent for Innovation

IBM Daksh Business Process Services Philippines Inc.

IBM.

International Offshore Systems Inc., categorized as a Business Process Outsourcing firm in the Philippines, is a subsidiary of a US-based company focused on the Healthcare Services Industry. Our organization is looking for candidates to fill-in the following posts immediately.

Claims Processors (6)

- ❖ Bachelor's / College Degree
- ❖ Preferably with Claims Adjudication background
- ❖ Knowledge of ICD-9 / CPT Coding
- ❖ Medical background a plus (RN's, OT's, PT's)
- ❖ Call Center/ Banking experience welcomed
- ❖ With English language affinity

Quality Controllers (2)

- ❖ Bachelor's / College Degree
- ❖ Preferably with Healthcare Services experience
- ❖ Medical background a plus
- ❖ With English language affinity
- ❖ Related Quality Assurance experience preferred

Software Programmers (4)

- ❖ Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology or equivalent
- ❖ Minimum 3 years experience in business computer applications development
- ❖ Hybrid experience in software development, networking and operating system technologies required
- ❖ Hands-on experience in software engineering processes in multiple hardware and software environments
- ❖ Track record of successful solution-based implementations utilizing .NET technologies, including C++ and/or VB.NET, ASP.NET, Web Services, ADO.NET, XML, Microsoft IIS, SQL Server and Crystal Report
- ❖ Direct involvement in the design, building and support of SLDC and production systems for custom application development and 3rd party product integrations (IMAGING SYSTEMS) required

Systems Administrator

- ❖ Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science / Information Technology or equivalent
- ❖ Minimum of 2 years working experience specializing in IT/Computer - Network/System/Database Admin, Help Desk Support or equivalent
- ❖ Required skill(s): LAN/WAN, CISCO, ASP, Windows (2003 Server), Active Directory
- ❖ Knowledge in hardware troubleshooting and software configuration and installation
- ❖ Competent w/ network tasks: LAN/WAN, Internet/Intranet, Exchange Server, Printer Networking
- ❖ Exposure to application and system development projects
- ❖ Strong verbal and written communications skills
- ❖ Ability to plan and work independently
- ❖ Proactive and highly analytical

Substantial Training, Competitive Compensation & Benefits, Subsidies, Allowances and/or Incentives await successful candidates!

Applicants must submit a comprehensive resume with VALID/ACTIVE E-MAIL ADDRESS AND CONTACT NUMBERS **on or before March 16, 2007**.

E-mail to: jobs@ios-consulting.com or info@ios-consulting.com

Mail or Deliver in Person to: International Offshore Systems Inc. Unit 1802 Antel Global Corporate Center #3 Dona Julia Vargas Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City Philippines

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

- ➢ **SECRETARY**
  Female at least 23 years old
- ➢ **UTILITY PERSON**
- ➢ **ARCHITECT**
- ➢ **ACCOUNTANT (CPA)**
  Female at least 25 to 30 years old
- ➢ **GARDENER**

Please bring resumé
Interview date **Feb. 28, 2007**

Time : 10:00am to 3:00pm
Tel. 842-1871 842-6108

Address: Unit 902 Alabang Business
Tower, 1216 Acacia Ave.
Madrigal Business Park
Alabang Muntinlupa

WANTED
LAWYER

Please send curriculum vitae and transcript of records to:

P.O. Box 354
U.P. Post Office
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

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We are recruiting Korean, Japanese or Mandarin Speakers

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- College or university degree
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Merlin Information Systems Philippines Inc. (MISPI) is a U.K. based company. For the past 16 years, Merlin has established itself as a leading IT Service Organisation that specialises in the design, implementation and ongoing delivery of Service Resolution Management Solutions to compliment corporate IT departments across the globe.

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Apply Now! Visit Us:

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Ortigas Center Pasig City
Mondays to Fridays, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

702- 2400 Ext. 38331
Recruitment.PH@misgl.com

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FEBRUARY 25, 2007

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sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

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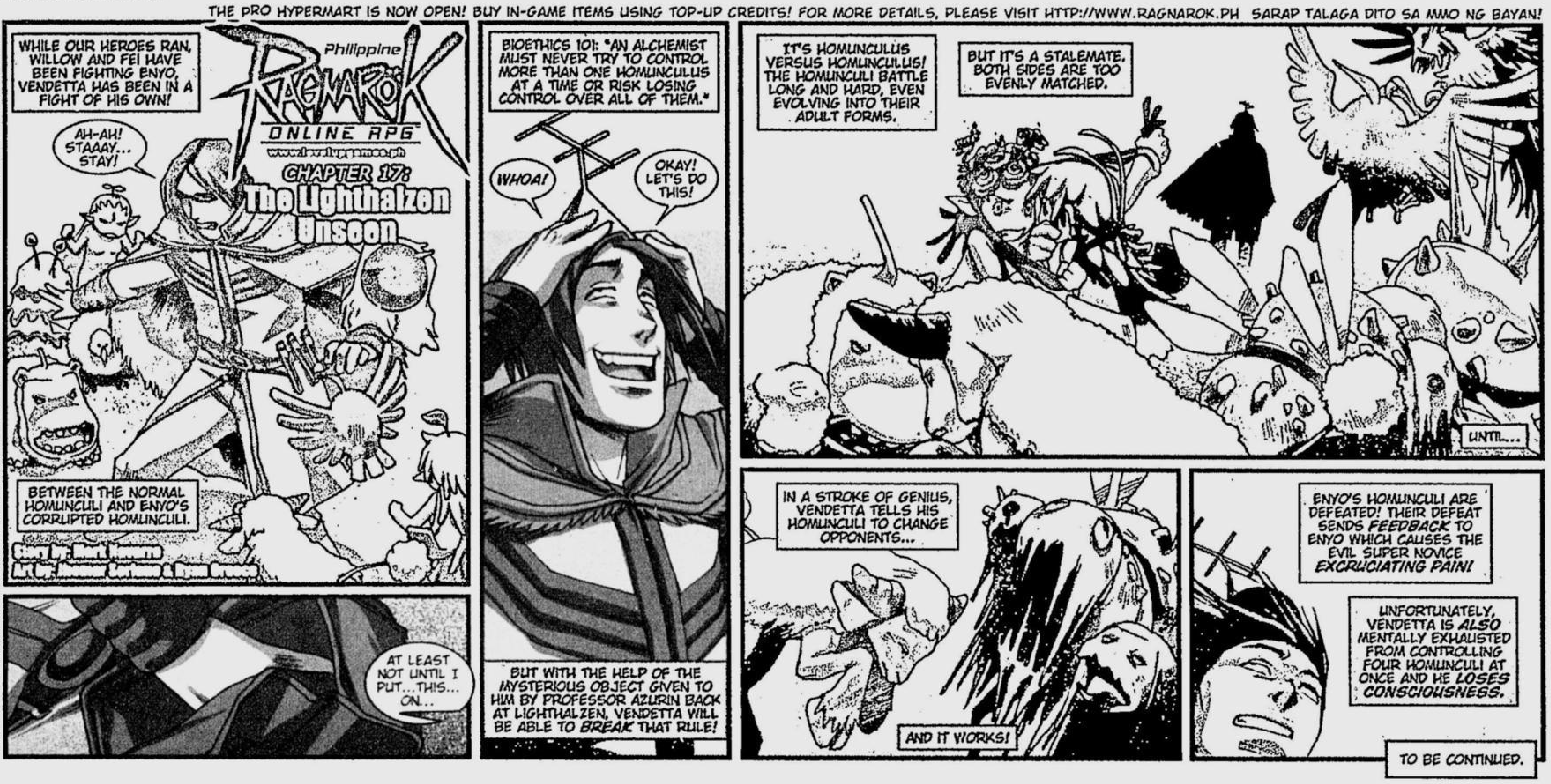
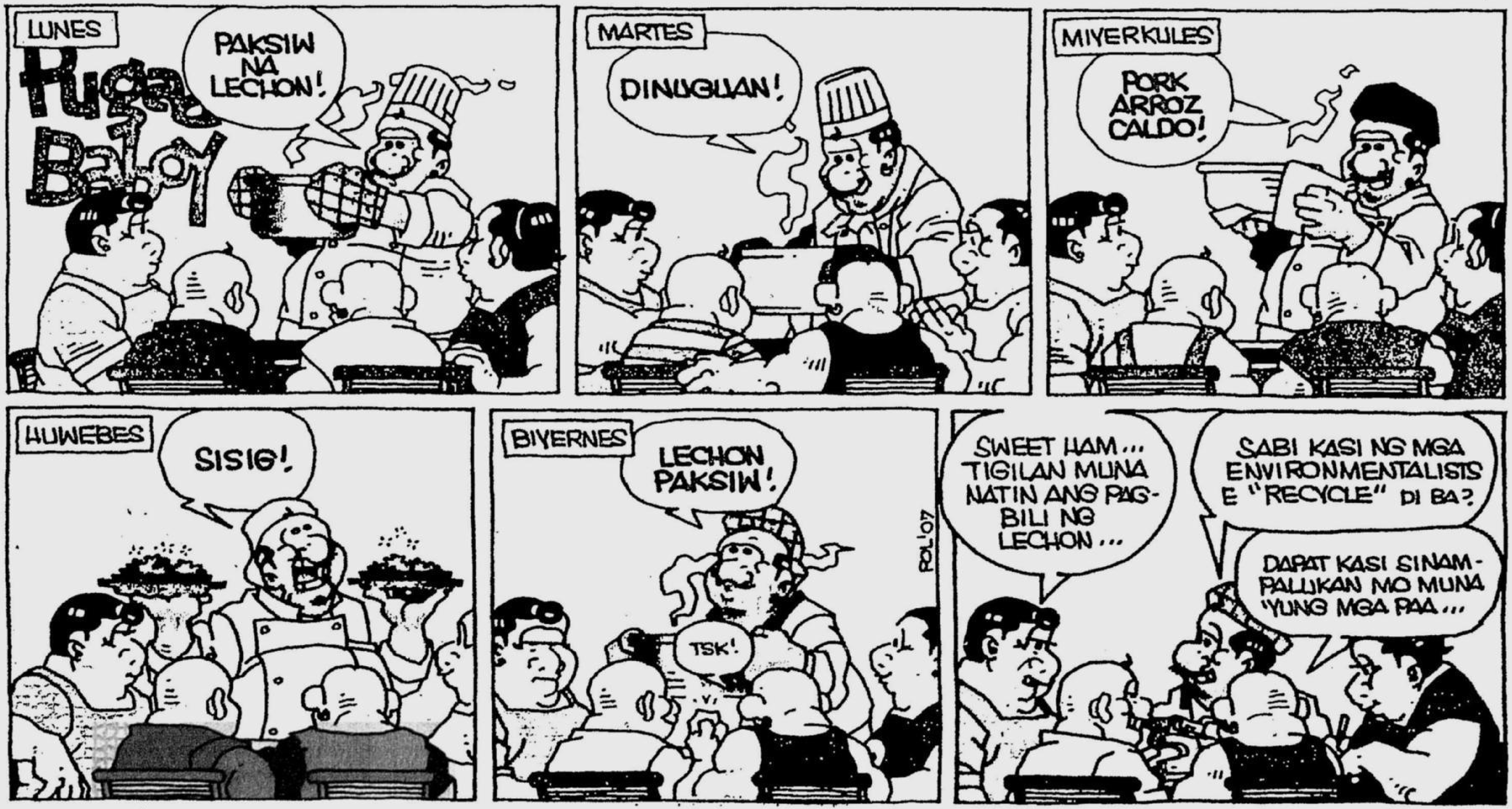

WHILE OUR HEROES RAN, WILLOW AND FEI HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ENYO, VENDETTA HAS BEEN IN A FIGHT OF HIS OWN!
Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
CHAPTER 17: The Lighthalzen Unseen
AH-AH! STAAAY... STAY!
BETWEEN THE NORMAL HOMUNCULI AND ENYO'S CORRUPTED HOMUNCULI.
AT LEAST NOT UNTIL I PUT...THIS... ON...
BIOETHICS 101: "AN ALCHEMIST MUST NEVER TRY TO CONTROL MORE THAN ONE HOMUNCULUS AT A TIME OR RISK LOSING CONTROL OVER ALL OF THEM."
WHOA!
OKAY! LET'S DO THIS!
BUT WITH THE HELP OF THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECT GIVEN TO HIM BY PROFESSOR AZURIN BACK AT LIGHTHALZEN, VENDETTA WILL BE ABLE TO BREAK THAT RULE!
IT'S HOMUNCULUS VERSUS HOMUNCULUS! THE HOMUNCULI BATTLE LONG AND HARD, EVEN EVOLVING INTO THEIR ADULT FORMS.
BUT IT'S A STALEMATE. BOTH SIDES ARE TOO EVENLY MATCHED.
UNTIL...
IN A STROKE OF GENIUS, VENDETTA TELLS HIS HOMUNCULI TO CHANGE OPPONENTS...
AND IT WORKS!
ENYO'S HOMUNCULI ARE DEFEATED! THEIR DEFEAT SENDS FEEDBACK TO ENYO WHICH CAUSES THE EVIL SUPER NOVICE EXCRUCIATING PAIN!
UNFORTUNATELY, VENDETTA IS ALSO MENTALLY EXHAUSTED FROM CONTROLLING FOUR HOMUNCULI AT ONCE AND HE LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS.
TO BE CONTINUED.

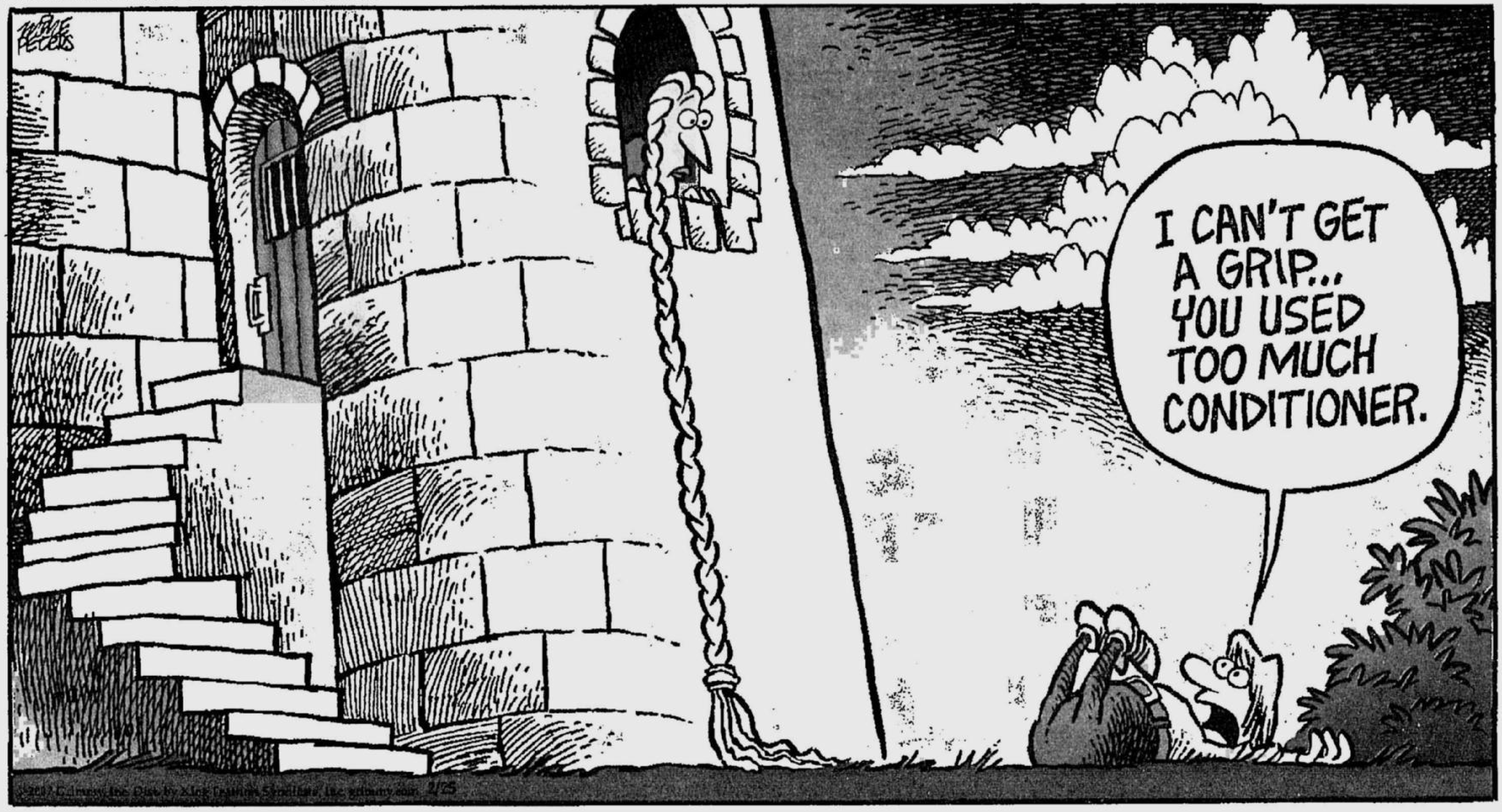
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


LUNES
Pugad Baboy
PAKSIW NA LECHON!
MARTES
DINUGUAN!
MIYERKULES
PORK ARROZ CALDO!
HUWEBES
SISIG!
BIYERNES
LECHON PAKSIW!
TSK!
POL '07
SWEET HAM... TIGILAN MUNA NATIN ANG PAG-BILI NG LECHON...
SABI KASI NG MGA ENVIRONMENTALISTS E "RECYCLE" DI BA?
DAPAT KASI SINAM-PALUKAN MO MUNA 'YUNG MGA PAA...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MIKE PETERS
I CAN'T GET A GRIP... YOU USED TOO MUCH CONDITIONER.
2/25

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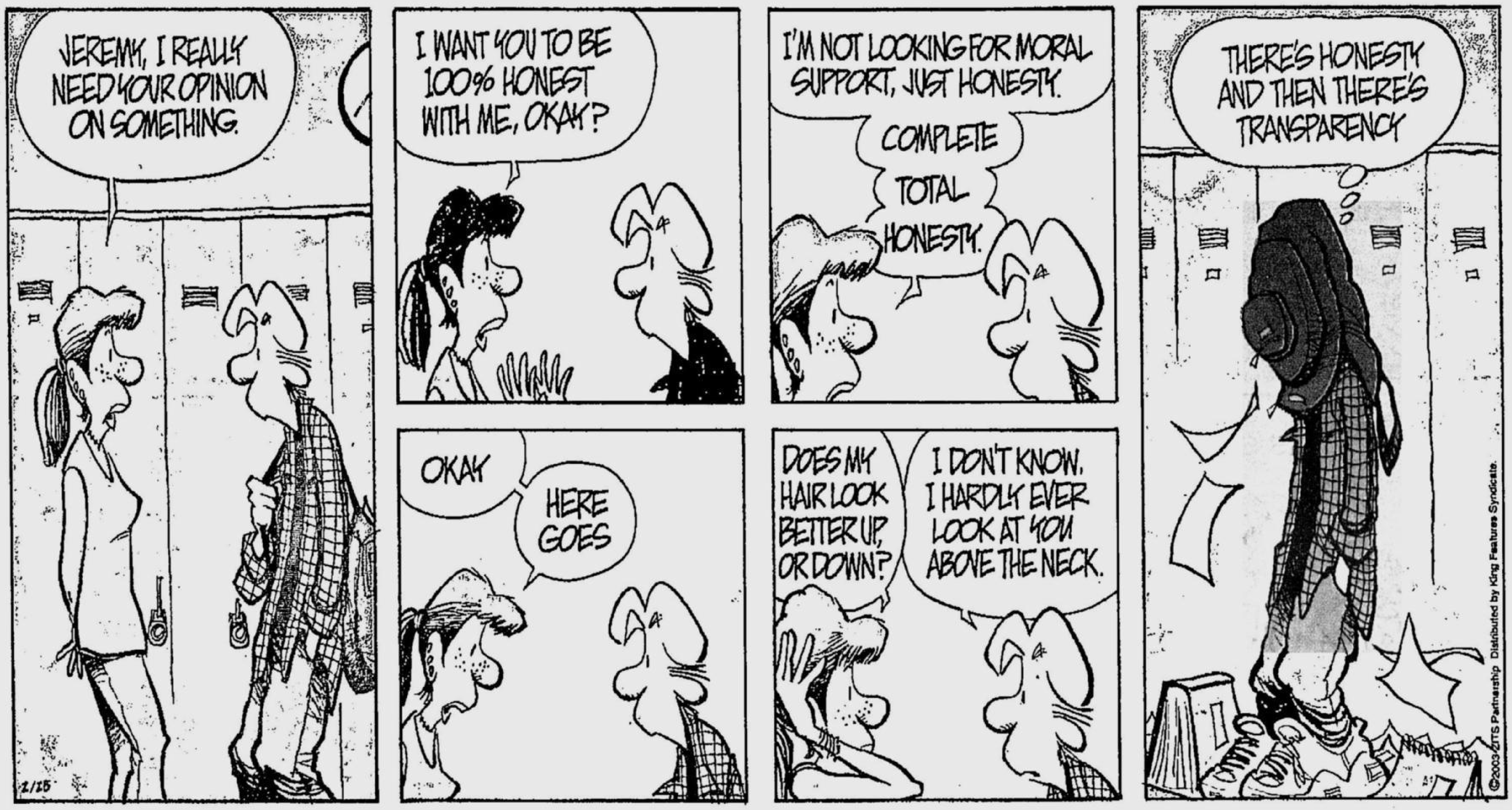
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


JEREMY, I REALLY NEED YOUR OPINION ON SOMETHING.
2/25
I WANT YOU TO BE 100% HONEST WITH ME, OKAY?
OKAY
HERE GOES
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR MORAL SUPPORT, JUST HONESTY.
COMPLETE
TOTAL
HONESTY.
DOES MY HAIR LOOK BETTER UP, OR DOWN?
I DON'T KNOW. I HARDLY EVER LOOK AT YOU ABOVE THE NECK.
THERE'S HONESTY AND THEN THERE'S TRANSPARENCY

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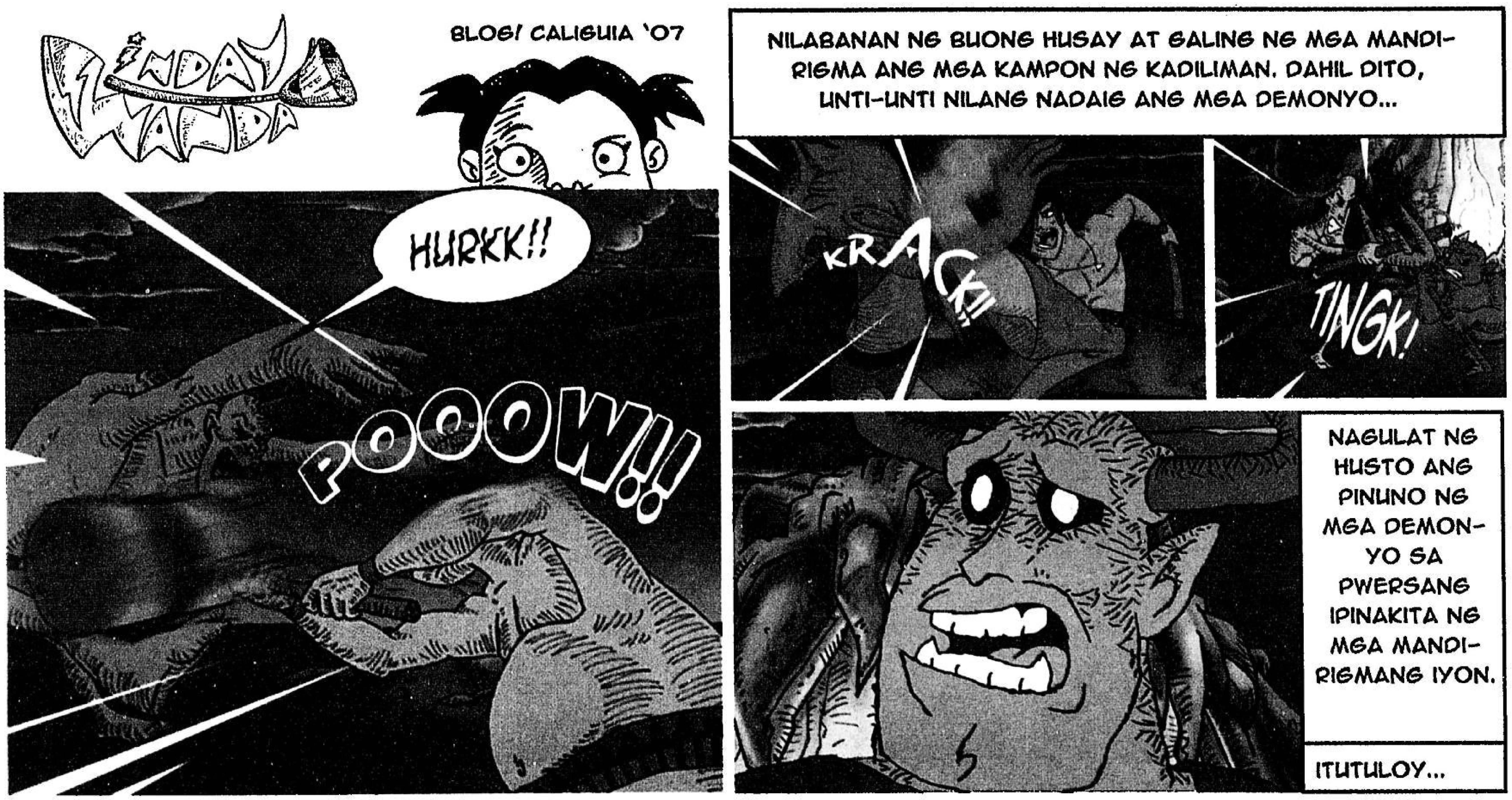
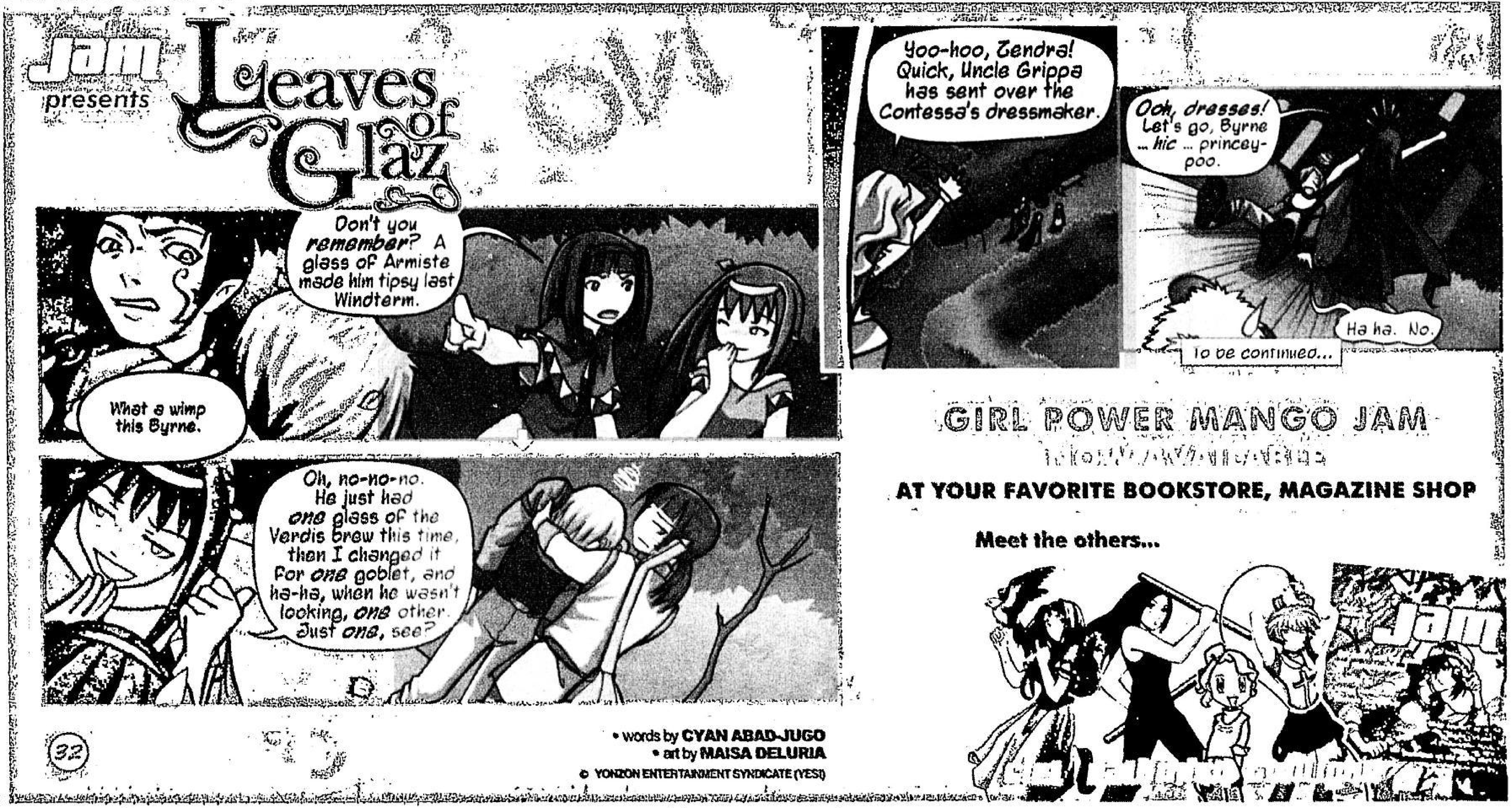
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


INDAY WANDA
BLOG! CALIGUIA '07
HURKK!!
POOOW!!
NILABANAN NG BUONG HUSAY AT GALING NG MGA MANDIRIGMA ANG MGA KAMPON NG KADILIMAN. DAHIL DITO, UNTI-UNTI NILANG NADAIG ANG MGA DEMONYO...
KRACK!!
TINGK!
NAGULAT NG HUSTO ANG PINUNO NG MGA DEMONYO SA PWERSANG IPINAKITA NG MGA MANDIRIGMANG IYON.
ITUTULOY...

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS


Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
Don't you *remember*? A glass of Armiste made him tipsy last Windterm.
What a wimp this Byrne.
Oh, no-no-no. He just had *one* glass of the Verdis brew this time, then I changed it for *one* goblet, and ha-ha, when he wasn't looking, *one* other. Just *one*, see?
Yoo-hoo, Zendra! Quick, Uncle Grippa has sent over the Contessa's dressmaker.
Ooh, dresses! Let's go, Byrne ... *hic* ... princey-poo.
Ha ha. No.
To be continued...
32
Jam

GIRL POWER MANGO JAM

AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP

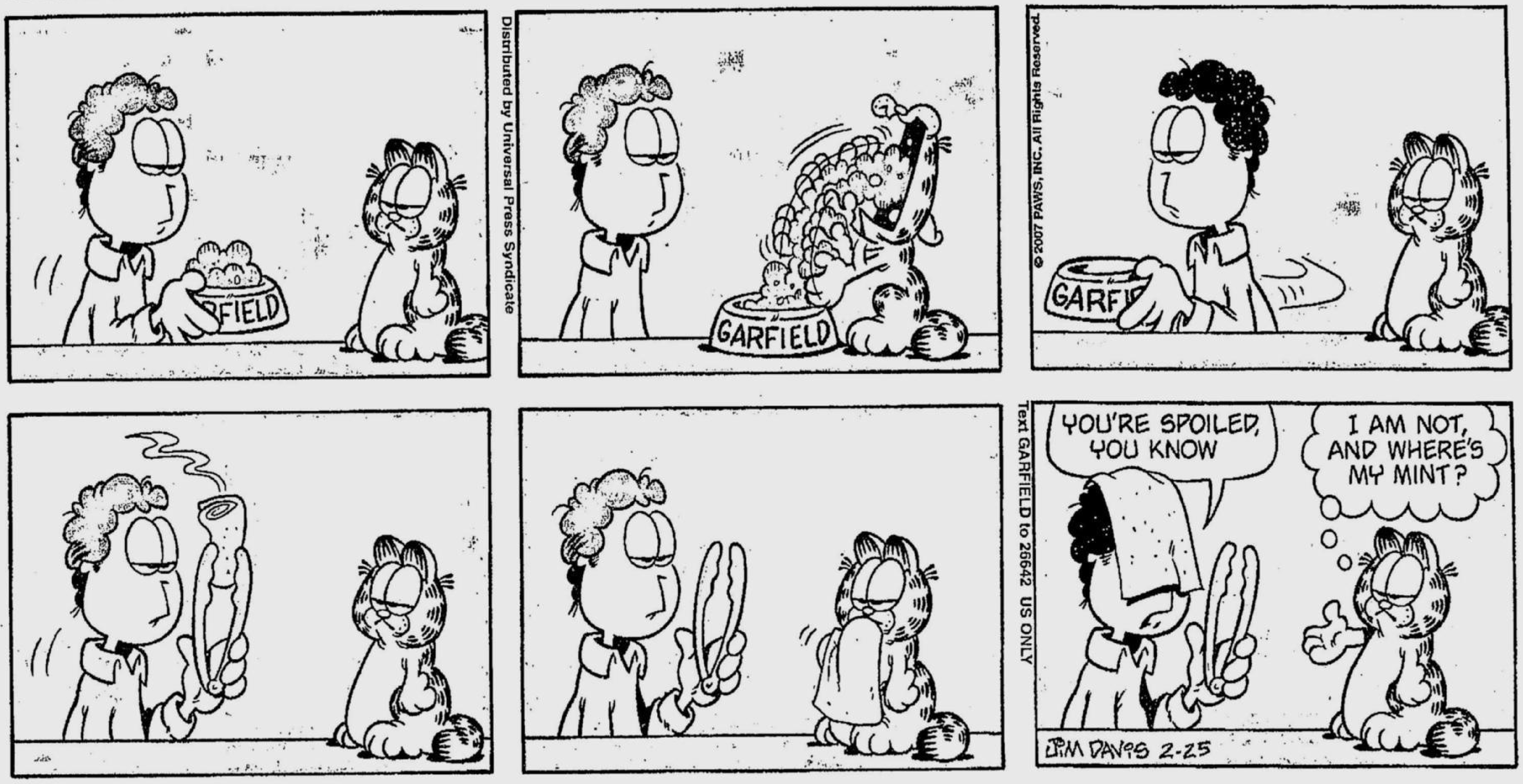
Meet the others...

• words by **CYAN ABAD-JUGO**
• art by **MAISA DELURIA**

© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD
GARFIELD
GARFI
YOU'RE SPOILED, YOU KNOW
I AM NOT, AND WHERE'S MY MINT?
JIM DAVIS 2-25

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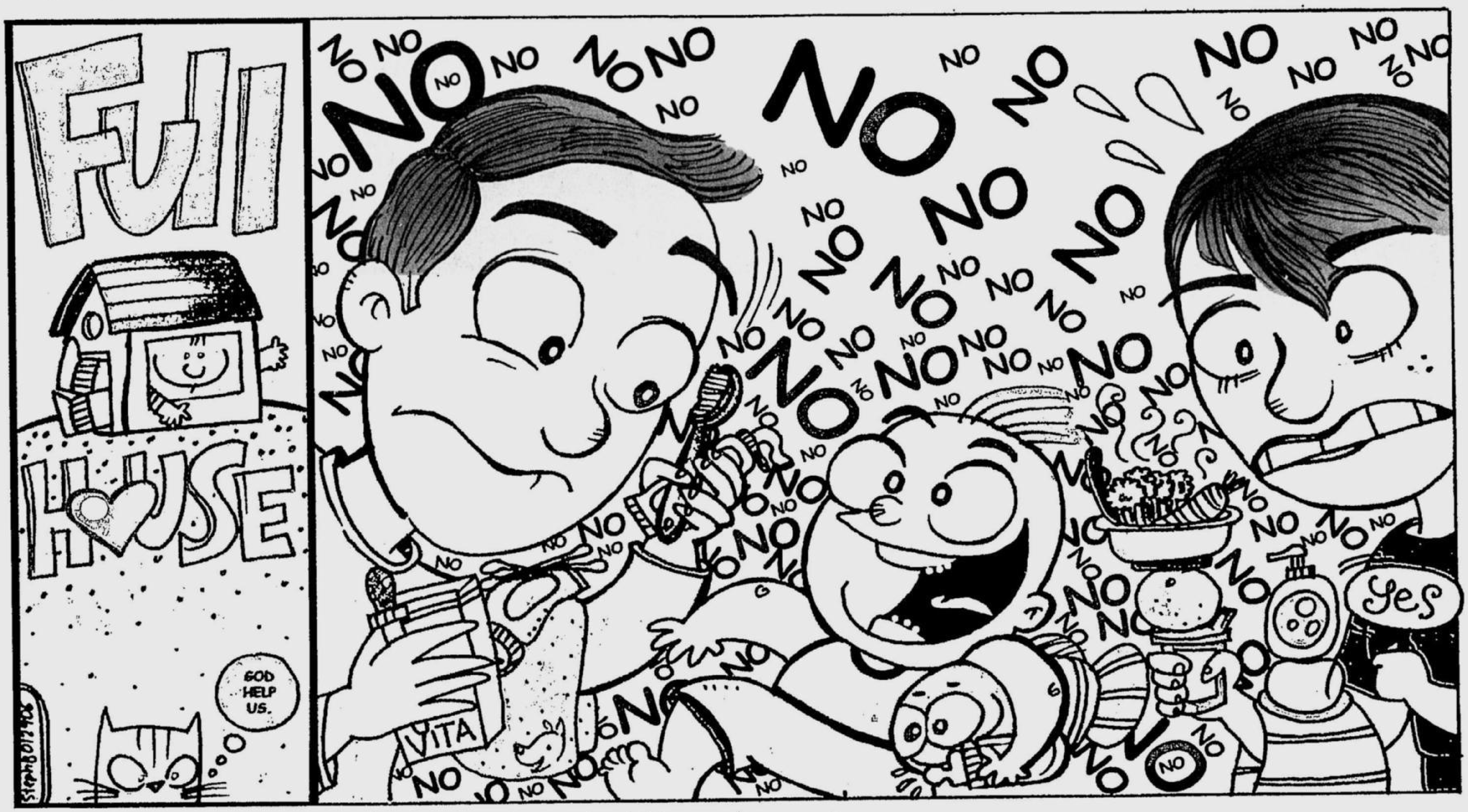
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO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February 25, 2007

FREE

PIOLO BY DESIGN

plus 5 experts on building your dream house • Hot designers • and more!

By Leica R. Carpo

Home, Sweat Home

Five experts on how to build that dream home without the nightmares

SO you think you're ready to build that dream home? Just the prospect of owning one's private space is enough to make people drool and forget all those stories about bad plumbing, leaky roofs and nasty termites. But be warned: Building your own home can drive you to debt, unravel your sanity, break up your marriage and give you ulcers. Just how do you find the right architect, interior designer and contractor who are patient enough to answer your "dumb" questions and seasoned enough to anticipate your needs, respect your budget and finish within schedule without costing you an arm and a leg? We asked a satisfied homeowner, a veteran industry supplier and a couple of reputable architects to share key insights on how to build a home without going to pieces.

Great interiors: (clockwise from top) Ginger Hill beach house, Hotel Elizabeth, El Cirkulo

1. **Junie Rodriguez**, *Los Angeles Environmental Design Graduate. Handles design projects for family homes and commercial development.*
Start with an honest assessment of the kind of house you'd like to own. The biggest mistake people make is to be too aspirational, often ending up with a house that has nothing to do with them or their lifestyle. For instance, do you really have the discipline for minimalism? Start simple: It's better to build a first-rate shack than a third-rate mansion. Don't get hung up on schedules because haste does make waste. Don't rush to buy if it's not perfect--good things come to those who wait. Remember, the trendier the style of your home or interiors, the quicker it becomes dated. Unlike shoes, you can't stop wearing your house when it goes out of season.

Familiarize yourself with prospective decorators and their work by visiting their showrooms. Ask to see a portfolio, but it's best to visit actual projects because pictures can be deceiving. Such visits can tell you if they can adapt to you or whether you will have to adapt to their style. Talk to people they have worked with; recommendations will tell you a lot.

2. **Kristine Ileto**, *Interior Design graduate (UST, 1999). Now working with a lighting specialty firm in the US.*
I think the first thing you need to assess is how much work needs to be done and what kind. Does it involve construction? Is it renovation or rebuilding from scratch? Will it involve furniture design? If you know this, then you can better determine your budget. Your budget dictates the type of designer that you can hire—from a well-known expert with years of experience if you have the means, to someone relatively new if you're scrimping. That someone new can charge less and might be more willing to go out on a limb for you, finding the best furniture deals and perfecting the littlest detail of your interiors.

When I had just passed the board, I took all the projects I could handle and charged so little. And still, I did the best I could and would even handle a paintbrush and hammer. Basically, rookies want to create a good impression and make the client feel important all the time. Be careful when hiring rookies, though, because usually their methods and dealings are still "semi-unprofessional."

As an interior designer, I like to make clients feel that they're getting their money's worth. I always discuss the concepts and materials with them thoroughly, and show them several solid options. That way my clients know that I am doing some research for them, creating fresh ideas and not just pulling old tricks out of a hat. It also makes the client feel like every detail has been given much thought and attention, and that the interiors are truly customized for them.

3. **Juan Miguel Ongsiako**, *Lighting consultant and supplier of building systems for the last 25 years.*
Get a complete resumé of the person you intend to hire. Always ask for an illustration board presentation of

colors, textures and concepts. When requesting quotes, ask for the following: design only, design and draft of plan, design, draft and supervision of the project. Always have more than one contractor in mind and ask for a bidding.

Consider inviting your architect or interior designer to your social gatherings, parties or for a meal so your project can be injected as part of the conversation. Rule of thumb: The more time you spend discussing your project the better it will turn out.

4. **Tina Bonoan**, *Architecture graduate, interior designer, furniture designer. Has her own design firm.* Key points to know when hiring an interior designer or architect: their style or look, years of experience in the industry, previous projects, top three projects to date and their professional fees and preferred payment scheme. Note that some professionals get commissions from suppliers, thus they can sacrifice their fee if the project is big enough. Also check how busy they currently are. Who are their preferred contractors, engineers, etc. Also, make sure that you get the best deals in purchasing furniture. Make sure they dedicate enough time to the project by setting up weekly meetings.

5. **Malu Gamboa**, *frequent client of interior designers and architects. Has been working with architects for 11 years on renovation projects of family homes and commercial properties.* When given options, check if the materials and furniture pre-selected are readily available in Manila. This will save you time, money and effort if the designer and architect already know the sources. Will they shop with you? This helps because then they can alert you to the best finds. How often will they visit the project? Given a choice, pick an interior designer you'd like to have meals with, shop and travel with—someone you'd want to spend long hours with in a plane, train or automobile. And don't be a nag; they won't answer your phone calls if you are.

Now what can you expect from your interior designer? Expect them to figure out the furniture layout, choose the paint and varnish colors, suggest furnishing options, fabric, blinds, lights, etc. They are not expected to know if your old speaker or television set still works (they're not electricians), or why the toilet you bought is not flushing properly (ask the plumber).

As for the bottomline, remember that costs can vary depending on how much the entire project is worth. So a lot depends on your requirements and negotiation skills. It can either be a flat fee, or a percentage of project cost, usually 10 to 15 percent for the interior designer. For architects, cost hovers between seven and eight percent of construction cost. For example, the lowest rates for an interior designer might be those charged by a student (P500 to P8,000). Mid-price would be P10,000 to P50,000. Upscale would be P50,000 plus. •

Best bets in the industry

In an informal poll, the following names came up as highly-recommended when it comes to designing dream houses.

1. **Anton Mendoza** *Style:* international glam, dramatic and experimental; very New York sleek. *Representative project:* People's Palace (Greenbelt 3)

2. **Ivy Almario** *Style*: contemporary chic. Also known to be super-efficient and to have the best bedside manner. *Representative projects:* Silk (Serendra), Astoria Hotel, Oyster Rockefeller (GB3)

3. **Yolanda Perez (Johnson) of Soumak** *Style:* Filipino original

4. **Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo of Firma** *Style:* Sensory overload on plush details and uber luxe. *Representative projects:* Firma Boutique (GB3), Felicity (Shangri-la Mall)

5. **Tina Bonoan** *Style:* down-to-earth, handcrafted, modernist.

6. **Anton Baretto** *Style:* contemporary chic. *Representative projects:* Piandre (GB1), Rajo Laurel atelier

7. **Budji Layug** *Style:* Asian glam, plus excellent use of natural light; a resort specialist. *Representative projects:* Discovery Shores (interiors), Pearl of the Pacific (Boracay, Aklan)

8. **Junie Rodriguez** *Style:* eclectic, appropriate with a unique point of view, Filipino-modern flair. *Representative project:* Ginger Hill Family beach house residence

9. **James Jao** *Style:* modern. *Representative project:* Senator Osmeña's resort in Guimaras, Iloilo

10. **Johnny Ramirez** *Style:* Filipiniana or European classic. *Representative project:* Zobel family projects

11. **Jorgie Yulo** *Style:* strong graphic lines with a retro feel. *Representative projects:* Cibo, Bola (Gateway Mall), Pepato (GB2)

12. **Bobby Mañosa** *Style:* environmental Filipino, uses local Philippine materials. *Representative project:* Amanpulo resort in Palawan

13. **Tessa Prieto Valdes** *Style:* Old World European meets modern art with bursts of dramatic color. *Representative projects:* Hotel Elizabeth, Baguio; her own residence —a Venetian-inspired palazzo

14. **Ramon Antonio** *Style:* functional, modern and cozy look. *Representative projects:* Taipan homes in Forbes Park, Dasmariñas Village

15. **Gary Coscolluela** *Style:* modern Asian minimalist. Known to be easy to work with and has excellent support staff. *Representative projects:* Discovery Shores, Landmark North Triangle

16. **Luigi and Vickie Antonio** *Style:* contemporary, practical, great eye and sense of style. *Representative project:* El Cirkulo

17. **Conrad Onglao** *Style:* modern, Zen feel, excellent use of artificial light. *Representative project:* Kerastase Spa (6750) •

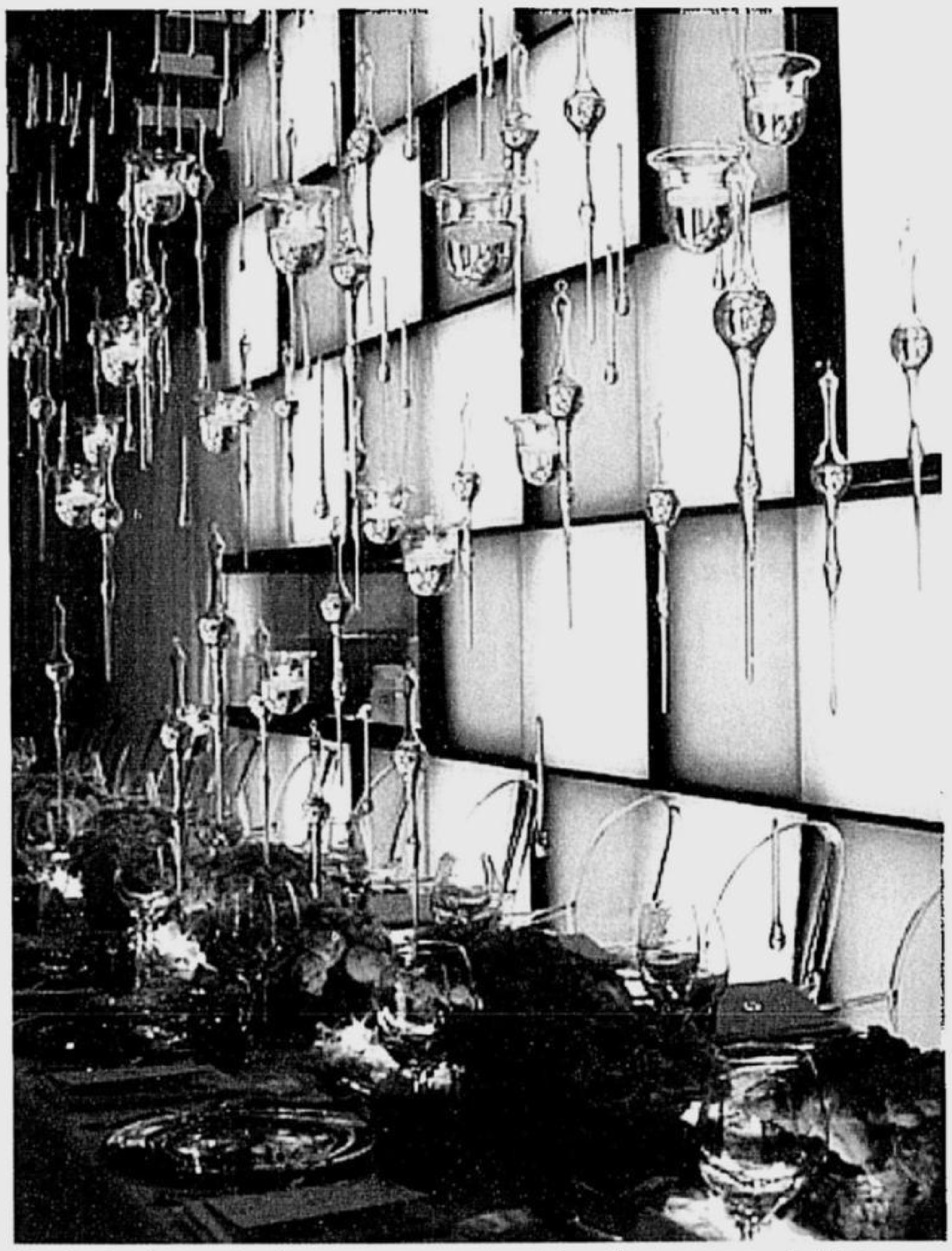
By Margaux Salcedo

Design as Death or Divinity

The modern diner seeks not only a memorable menu but a memorable venue as well. Restaurant design has never been as influential as it is today

RESTAURANTS are no longer a purely gustatory experience. Today's diner seeks not just a memorable menu but a memorable venue as well. Design now plays such an important role in the restaurant industry that it can spell the difference between a P500 and a $500 meal. And in some cases, design may cause the death or divinity of a restaurant, menu aside.

One of the most praised restaurants in the United States is The French Laundry in Napa Valley, California, of Chef Thomas Keller. Keller has been named Best Chef by several audiences, judges and publications, including the panel of the James Beard Foundation, the Wedgwood Awards, Time Magazine, Reader's Digest, and London's Restaurant Magazine.



Per Se's classy designs can accommodate off-venue events like this one for a Vuitton affair

In 2004, when the Time Warner Center opened on New York's Upper West Side, Keller opened Per Se, which has since received rave reviews and for which one now needs a six-month advance reservation. Like The French Laundry, it has been voted one of The World's 50 Best Restaurants by Restaurant Magazine and has received four stars from the New York Times, a remarkable feat, considering that hardly any restaurant ever receives four stars from their harsh and brutal critics.

Per Se boasts a nine-course tasting menu that should be worth the six-month wait. The price? I hear it now runs at $250 (around P12,500). Crazy? Sounds like. But two years after it opened, Per Se continues to receive the same amazing reviews and the wait list is getting even longer, so there really must be something enchanting about this restaurant. The consensus is that it is the overall extraordinary experience: aside from the menu that is consistently impeccable, the critics have given equal credit to the restaurant's design. Frank Bruni of The New York Times, wrote:

"...With its brown tones, dark woods and shimmering metal surfaces, it looks like a gilded corporate boardroom, not just touched but kissed by Midas. It offers opulence in place of hominess: an appropriate adjustment, I would argue, from Napa to Manhattan. "It also feels blissfully indulgent. The space between tables—only 16 of them—is vast, and every table has a view of (Central Park) and the grand buildings that skirt it. If you can wangle a reservation that puts you in Per Se around dusk and allows you to watch the light fade over Manhattan, do it. The reward is a profound sense of peace that very few of this frenetic city's restaurants can offer."

I am proud to share that the project architect for Per Se is a Filipina. A UP graduate who took her master's degree in architecture at Columbia University, Liza Morales-Crespo handled The Restaurants at the Time Warner mall. The Restaurants include Per Se, for which she had extensive discussions with Keller himself, V Steakhouse of Jean-Georges Vongerichten (not there anymore), and Stone Rose, a bar/lounge by Randy Gerber (husband of Cindy Crawford) of W Bar fame (the W Hotel was where they shot "Two Weeks Notice" with Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant).

For The Restaurants, Liza coordinated everything from the schematic design phases to construction. Now an associate of the firm Brennan Beer Gorman Monk Interiors, Liza was involved in the restaurants' conceptual design, design development, sourcing, and construction. She admits that doing the architecture for a restaurant is far more taxing than for other projects, especially if your client is as detailed as Thomas Keller. "It was challenging because Keller was very 'down to the details,' aside from the fact that when you work on a restaurant, you necessarily get more involved because the requirements are

Per Se's project architect Liza Morales-Crespo

far more specific, although it helped that Keller knew from the beginning what he wanted, down to the tablecloth."

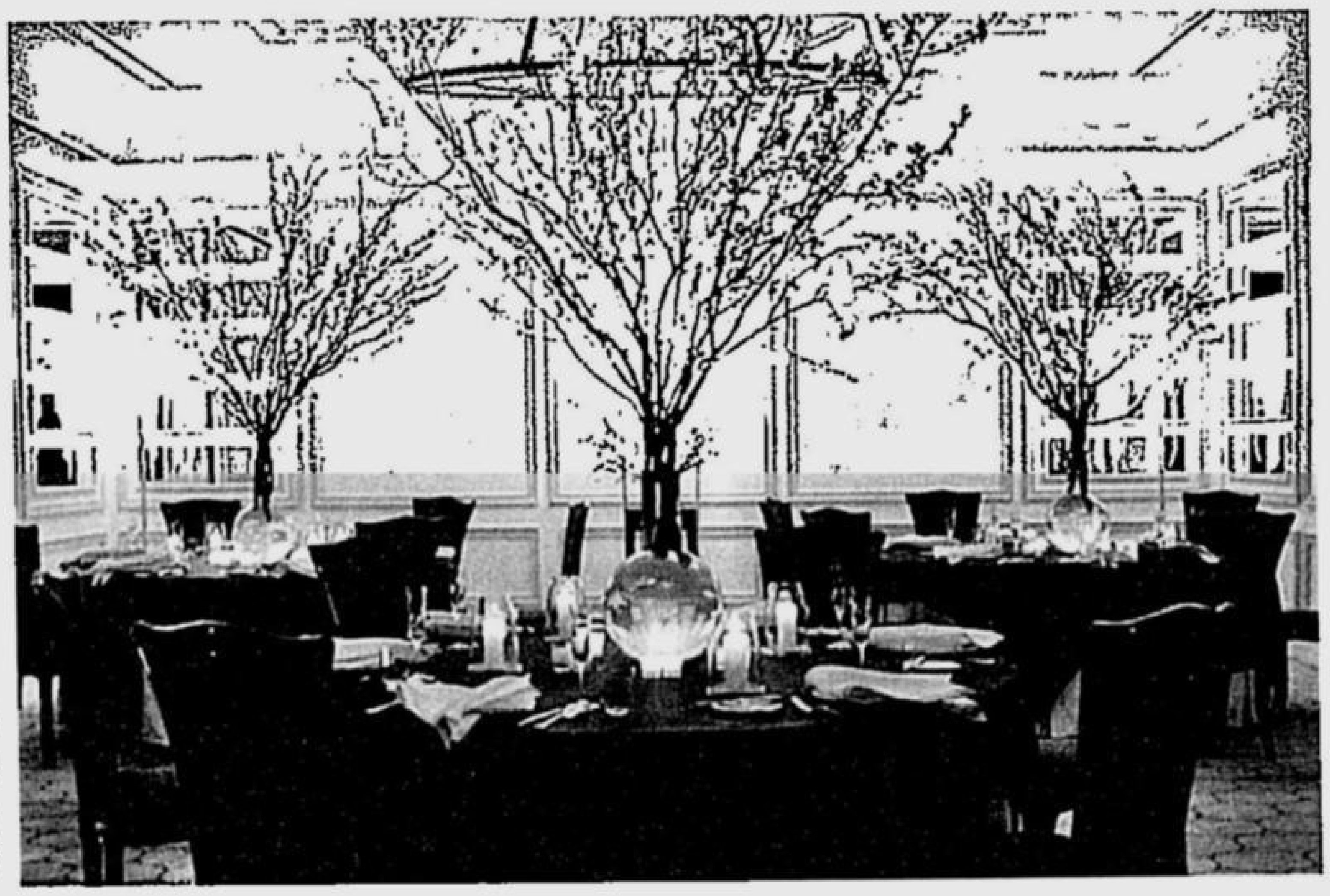
To prepare for the project, Liza read Keller's "The French Laundry" to get acquainted with his style of cooking, his tastes and philosophy. She also coordinated with numerous consultants to get every detail of the restaurant right, including an acoustics consultant, to make sure that sound levels within the kitchen don't bother the guests; a food service consultant, who told her specifically what stoves and other equipment to purchase; a mechanical consultant for air-conditioning and other such concerns; an electrical consultant; a plumbing consultant; a sprinklers consultant; a fire protection consultant; a low-voltage consultant, who made sure that everything requiring Web access would work smoothly, and, of course, the interior designer, Adam Tihany, who made sure that elements of The French Laundry were present at Per Se. (Whew!) Liza shares that Per Se was especially nerve-wracking because Keller wanted a satellite hook-up with The French Laundry in Napa Valley, plus he insisted on something called a "display kitchen" where you can watch what's going on as they prepare your meal if you choose to, requiring what they call the back-of-house to be as well-maintained as the front-of-house.

So there is much more to design and architecture than just drawing up a plan; you need a project architect to make sure that the transition from concept to construction goes smoothly. Liza advises that when you design a restaurant, your architect or designer should also get acquainted with the chef's way of cooking: from the ingredients (Keller, unlike other restaurants, did not require a storage facility for vegetables because he gets everything fresh, sometimes even flown in from Napa Valley); to the procedures employed (Keller prioritizes his *garde manger* or pantry chef); and other such intricacies. "I learned about how complicated running a restaurant is, from the sequence of food preparation to the specific equipment that needs to be used; everything has to be systematic and organized."

Tootsie Gancayco (Pratt Institute, Masters in Communication Design) and Grace Zapata (Columbia University, MBA) of the brand management firm Push Associates explain the value of design to Per Se's or any other restaurant's or brand's success. Says Tootsie, "Design is a way to communicate. Unconsciously, the visual concept communicates [to your guest] what your message is and who you are." Grace adds that design may even dictate a restaurant's price. "Take for example Antonio's in Tagaytay. It's so far and quite pricey but people go there for the experience."

The good news is, as the world gets smaller and the players more exposed to international standards, our restaurants are getting as competitive with their interiors as they are with their flavors. It can only be a good thing for the customer, who is also learning to become more discerning and more demanding of better tastes, textures and ambiance.

Of course, if after all the effort with a fancy wall relief structure and the display kitchen, the steak tastes like rubber and the fish sub par, well then, by all means ask for your money back. A restaurant must obviously be more than what meets the eye. At the end of the day, it still is, literally, a matter of taste. •



Per Se's Private Dining Room West

Figure It Out

636 square kilometers: Total area of Metro Manila

9.9 million: Population of Metro Manila

15,617 people per square kilometer: Population density of Metro Manila

12.9 percent: Percentage of Philippine population residing in Metro Manila

16,467: Population of Batanes, the least populated province in the Philippines

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

By Cora Llamas

From the Cultural Center—to the world

The International Women's Month celebration in Paris next month takes on local color as 30 famous Filipino women grace the foyer of Unesco's office, thanks to a photo exhibit by Isa Lorenzo

Wawi Navarroza

Lorenzo with portrait of Ligaya Amilbangsa: "A sense of greatness in the Filipino"

IT took photographer Isa Lorenzo two years to put together the exhibit currently displayed at the Main Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It had its public debut sometime last year, but this encore is doubly rewarding: not only is the portrait exhibit—appropriately titled "Filipinas"—an excellent testament to her skills as a photographer, it was also recently recognized by Unesco-Paris. "Filipinas" has been chosen as one of three exhibits to be shown at Unesco's building foyer as part of the International Women's Month celebration in March, a great honor indeed.

For Lorenzo, things just seem to take a serendipitous turn. A couple of years ago, she was deliberating on whether to remain in New York, where her work was becoming noticed, or return home to the Philippines. The Creative Director of the Manila-based Silver Lens recalls, "I started thinking of all these women I had heard of as a child, whom I had seen, and then of coming back and photographing them."

Many of the women are household names, legends in their time and leaders in their fields: former president Corazon Aquino, who led a bloodless uprising that toppled a dictatorship; Gilda Cordero-Fernando, award-winning author and proponent of Philippine culture, trailblazing historian Carmen Guerrero Nakpil, Philippine Daily INQUIRER co-founder Eugenia Apostol, economist Winnie Monsod, and peace and order champion Teresita Ang See, just to name a few of the 30 women in the exhibit.

Despite their differences in background and professions, Lorenzo discovered that these women shared one important attribute: "They're all very sure of themselves, very unapologetic, but in a good way. You know how Filipinos can be very self-effacing? (These women) are not, but proud of who they are. They know they're worth something, are sure of themselves, and make no bones about telling you what they think or feel."

One lesson Lorenzo took with her in capturing these women on camera is a sense of the Filipinos' greatness and their potential as a people. "If left to our own devices, we can be great. (These women) are very quiet in what they are doing, without fanfare or any attention to themselves," she says. "These women are not fazed by temporary things. They are sure of themselves and they stick to what they know."

The photographer herself has a gift for looking at the long term. Though she had college and postgraduate degrees in Medicine, she chose not to practice it. Instead, she focused on the creative energies she felt were brewing inside her. Stints in television and magazine work helped a little but did not quite tap the potential inside. The legwork often left her too drained at the end of the day to be creative at all.

Everything changed after a vacation in New York in early 2000. A class in photography at the International Center of Photography ("a school-museum-community center that is global when it comes to photography") linked her to her inner muse. She later took up graduate courses in Media Studies and Photography at the NY-based New School University-Parsons School of Design, and worked part-time as an assistant to photographers. It wasn't long before she started taking her own shots.

In the US, Lorenzo's works have been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, the International Center of Photography, and the Thomas Werner Gallery, all in New York City. "It was a culture shock, a breath of fresh everything. Creatively there have no rules because it's all about self-expression."

The rest of the world may get a glimpse of those ideas—and of the energy, creativity, and ingenuity that drive Filipino women in particular. "Filipinas" will tour Europe starting March up to perhaps June or July. Lorenzo also wants overseas Filipino workers to see these images.

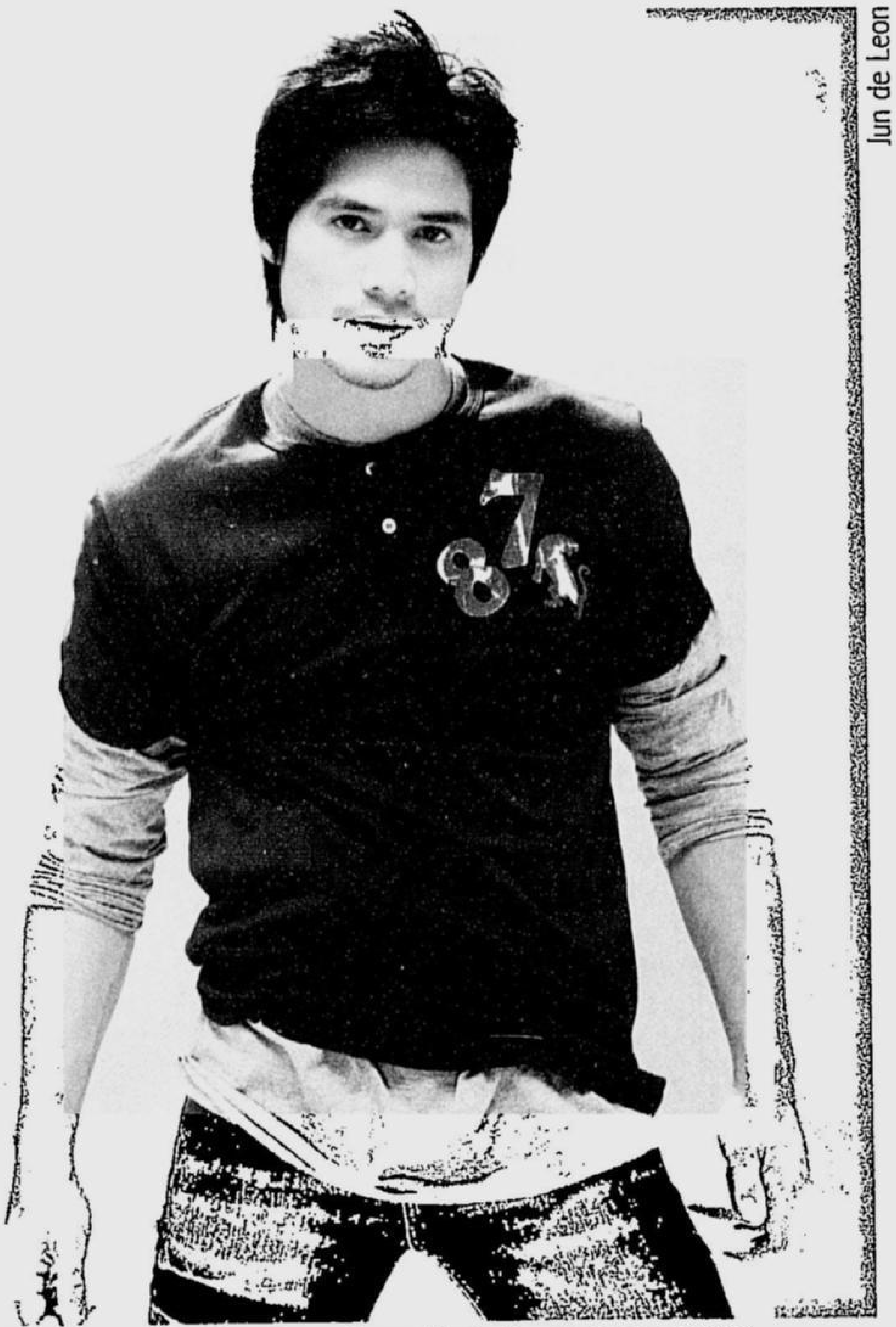
"The photos are beautiful, but will they really matter to a Vietnamese, a Frenchman, or an Italian? ('Filipinas') will matter more if you are Filipino," says Lorenzo. •

For more info, log on to http://www.filipinas.silverlensphoto.com/index.htm.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Metrosexual and proud of it

Nope, Piolo Pascual isn't confirming those nasty rumors. Instead, the newest Bench endorser confesses to pampering himself while maintaining his sense of style: simple, fuss-free and comfortable



Jun de Leon

Piolo's personal style: "Sometimes it's better to look scruffy"

YES, he admits it, Piolo Pascual says without embarrassment. "It's the 'in' thing. I can call myself a metrosexual because I like taking care of myself."

Continues the actor-singer who has had to fend off nasty rumors about his sexuality: "I like to pamper myself. (Being a metrosexual) is a matter of feeling and looking good. I believe metrosexuals are more responsible; they care about presenting themselves well to other people."

Not that he's vain, because when it comes to grooming rituals, he's a fuss-free, low-maintenance guy, says Piolo.

"As long as I get eight hours of sleep, I'm safe. Sometimes it's better to look scruffy or plain. If possible, I avoid wearing make-up but it's a job requirement."

His only indulgence is a weekly pedicure and regular foot spa treatments. "I fuss over my feet. It's my only fetish! I feel ill at ease when I have calluses," he says with a grin.

Dressing up usually means "throwing together something after a shower," confesses Piolo whose favorite date outfit is a simple long-sleeved shirt and jeans. "Very safe," he says of his sense of style. "When you're a kid, you can afford to be more experimental. But as you mature, you need to define your style because what you wear reflects your personality. Your character. You really have to be careful in choosing your clothes in terms of colors and combinations."

As far as Piolo is concerned, comfort is key. "I'm a casual dresser and I don't go for flashy clothes. But I can be edgy when I'm onstage," he adds.

Surely he's had his fair share of fashion faux pas in the past? Definitely, says Piolo.

The worst outfit in his closet? He gasps: "My 'Hunks' costumes! They made us wear absurd clothes—with tassels, laces and fishnet. Scary!"

He also confesses to an acid-wash crime, among other follies of youth. "When I was in grade six, my mom bought me a striped *baston* (slim cut) acid-wash jeans. I was forced to wear it!"

In high-school, he sported a devil's do. "Like the haircut of Emilio Estevez in (the movie) 'The Mighty Ducks.' I regret that to this day," Piolo says, laughing.

As a special treat, he shops in upscale stores in the US. The most expensive article of clothing in his closet? "Hugo Boss jackets. Bally blazers. These suits are a good investment. You can wear them forever."

For awards shows, Piolo runs to Inno Sotto, but prefers Paul Smith among foreign brands. "Even though its line is colorful, it goes well with other brands," he says.

Precisely because Piolo is a confessed simple dresser, he is a perfect fit as a Bench man, says his friends and colleagues, among them original Bench model Richard Gomez, fellow "Hunk" Diether Ocampo and R&B singer Jay-R.

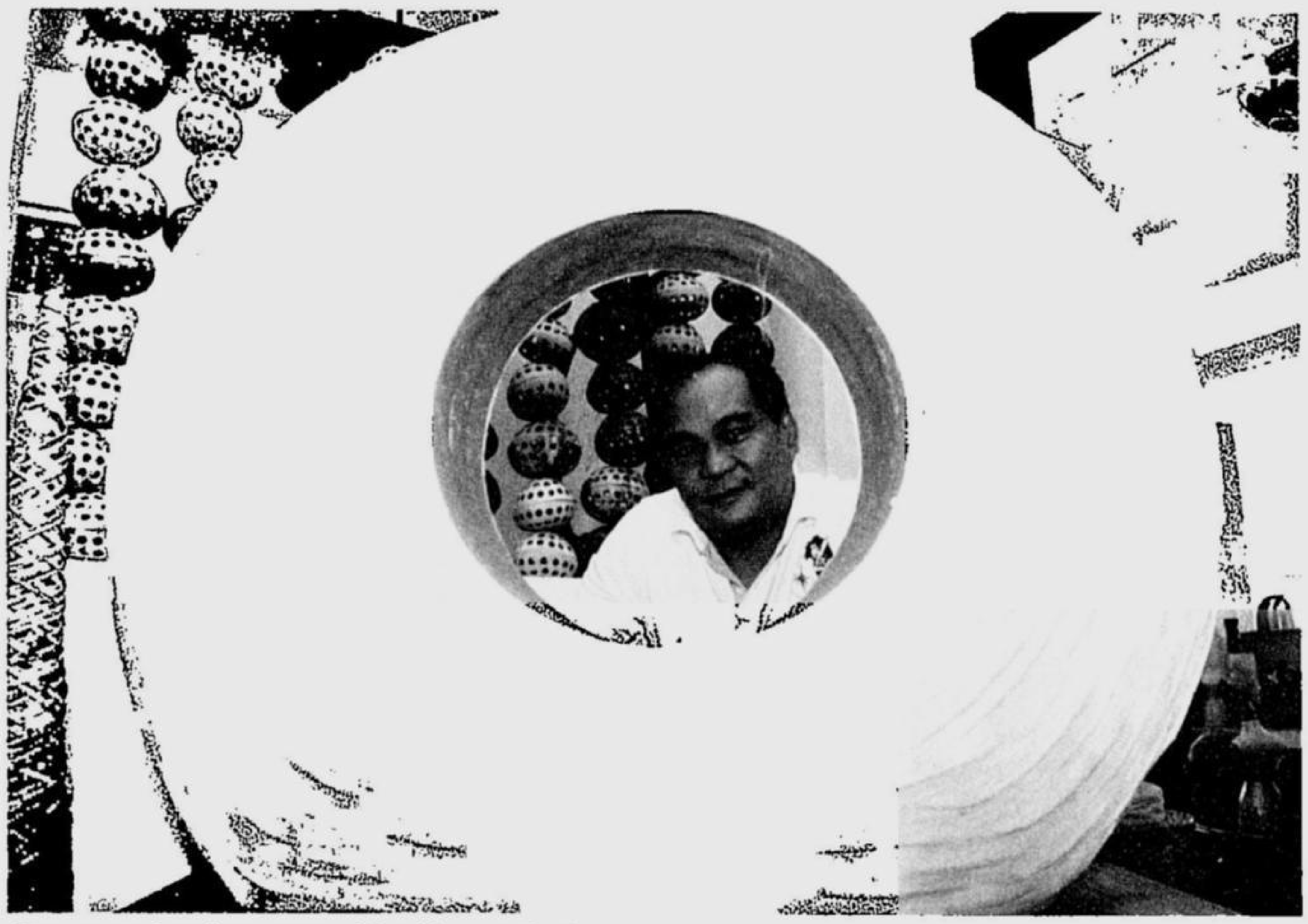
Piolo's debut as Bench endorser coincides with the label's 20th anniversary, says Ben Chan, the moving force behind the lifestyle label. "The opportunity to work with Piolo came at the right moment. Piolo is long overdue for Bench. Signing him up is the best way to kick off our 20th year."

"I just want to be comfortable," Piolo sums up his fashion principle which, he says, is consistent with the Bench philosophy. "Since I am already in the public eye, I want people to look at me and not at my costume." •

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Rodel Rotoni

Home Decor that Puts the Genius in Indigenous

Al Caronan considers himself half designer, half entrepreneur and says that a good design marries art and commerce, tradition and technology



Caronan: A unique way of looking at design

"I'M NOT really a designer," protests Al Caronan. "I can't even draw."

If design is a vision of how things can be, however, then methinks Caronan protests too much.

Over the past two decades Caronan's company, TN Philippines, has made a name for itself by producing home décor that marries age-old indigenous materials with a contemporary flavor. The resulting pieces, made mostly for the export market, have a distinctive handcrafted look and feel that raises them above the competition. Working with such traditional materials as capiz, abaca, seashells, rattan, bamboo, coconut shells and even vines, Caronan's workshop blends them with new technology and Filipino ingenuity to produce his much sought-after pieces.

Caronan has exhibited his works in the American Crafts Museum, a tremendous accolade for anyone—non-designer or not.

He has also won several Katha Awards from the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), as well as awards at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair—perhaps the most important annual showcase for contemporary design in the world—as part of the influential Movement 8 group.

Perhaps Caronan's reluctance to call himself a designer comes from the roundabout route he took to find his way into design. He grew up in Tuguegarao, Cagayan where his family ran a store in the local market—his first exposure in business.

He was originally a chemistry major at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, before making a radical shift to Broadcast Communications. But he was more into writing than anything else, joining the UP Journalism Club and the Philippine Collegian, and at one point aspiring to a master's degree from the Columbia School of Journalism before fate intervened.

Says Caronan: "Between getting into exports and becoming an entrepreneur I went through a gamut of jobs that seemed disparate and quite different from each other. Later, I realized that my current work became a synthesis of that learning curve."

Caronan went into development work in Mindanao, doing sales and promotions for an insurance company and production management for a garment firm before joining the Ayala Museum, which turned out to be a formative experience.

"I couldn't point out any major design icons as influences, but I was guided by a passion for work and for an appreciation of being a Filipino," he says.

At the museum, Caronan found himself organizing alternative film festivals, a tertulia program for the performing arts and a changing gallery.

"It was experimenting with concepts and doing things outside the box, dictated by lack of resources which led me to look for creative solutions to do what was possible in that context," he says.

At the museum, he also steeped himself in Philippine material culture, absorbing pre-Hispanic art and the works of Damian Domingo, Isabel Tampinco and Juan Luna almost by osmosis.

"Seeing them every day molded me into producing the products we do today," he says. "The *lateros, burdaderas, mag-uukit, magtataka*—all of them are influences along with the sensory stimuli of living in a country that's always finding excuses to celebrate any occasion with parades, floats and festivals," he says.

In 1985, Caronan was waiting to leave for the Columbia School of Journalism when he was asked to join CITEM, the government body in charge of showcasing Philippine products in international fairs and expositions. Initially in charge of producing publicity materials, Caronan was pulled as if by gravity into the world of design.

At the start, he worked with CITEM design consultants, helping them source materials and artisans. Applying a journalist's curiosity, he soon amassed a wealth of knowledge on materials and processes, as well as the various communities of local craftspeople with specialized skills handed down from generation to generation.

"At CITEM, I always asked the manufacturers to show me the raw material, as well as the finished products," he recalls. "I always integrated it when we did the shoots and the layouts so you could see the transformation. I always believed in the material. I've always wanted to play with it before making a product, and that's what gives me the inspiration. It's how I've always done things—I start with the material and experiment with it and the design just follows thereafter.

"If you don't have the material, your design will be too cerebral, too conceptual. I changed the design process. I started with the material. I don't really have a design background or any formal training so basically whatever I did was more of a reaction to what I could work with and what I could design from, rather than doing the design first and then looking for the material."

In 1988, Caronan took the plunge and formed TN Philippines with a Taiwanese partner, focusing on the Chrismas décor market. For a time, it was a lucrative business, but early on, Caronan foresaw that China was emerging as a formidable rival. What we can do for one dollar, they can do for 30 cents, he says.

Caronan's work always puts value in the use of indigenous materials

The bottom finally dropped out of the Christmas décor business during the Asian financial crisis of the mid-'90s. Caronan decided that TN Philippines would have to retool itself to survive and thrive. "So we went back to our core strengths, our people, and expanded our smaller lines. How can we transform it so that even if it's more expensive, it's going to be different from what China has? That dictated where we wanted to go as a company and what kind of designs we had to come up with."

The key, as it turned out, was going back to traditional Philippine craft and applying it in new and unexpected ways to produce distinctive designs. "I don't really have a design philosophy because I don't consider myself a trained designer," he says. "But I have always upheld the integrity of the material, and if I am successful in doing so, the design just flows."

At Caronan's workshop, artisans apply endless curiosity in investigating materials and finding new and untried ways of working with them. This research and development has led to TN Philippines' distinctive style, which Caronan describes as "ingenious indigenous and monastic modern: simple, basic and no-frills highlighting the potential of indigenous materials with a modernist tweak."

He adds: "The biggest break and the most rewarding was when I started adapting traditional techniques and applying them to created designs for the modern market: callado in capiz, relief work in tin, stamping on handmade paper. The decorative accessories sold very well in the US market and are still selling well 20 years after we first introduced them.

"The other breakthrough came when we started manipulating indigenous materials and transforming them for industrial applications." Such innovations as laser-cut capiz and laminated bamboo won Caronan an invitation to exhibit at the American Arts and Crafts Museum.

At the end of the day, however, Caronan considers himself half designer and half entrepreneur, neither half able to exist without the other. "It should be a mix," he says. "You can't sustain the design if you don't have the business, and you can't have a business without the design—it should be a happy marriage of both. If you can get the perfect combination of that you can be very successful. They say that design will sell itself, but then it has to be produced, it has to priced correctly. It doesn't end with the product—it has to go through an entire process, servicing the delivery, the finishing, the quality. The designers should also be held accountable and they should also be responsible business people because you cannot sustain the design if you don't have the business.

"Good design is marrying art and commerce, tradition and technology and having people appreciate it for both its form and function," he says. "It should be affordable, and it should be living, tangible art." •

By Claire Agbayani

Turning Labels into Lie Detectors

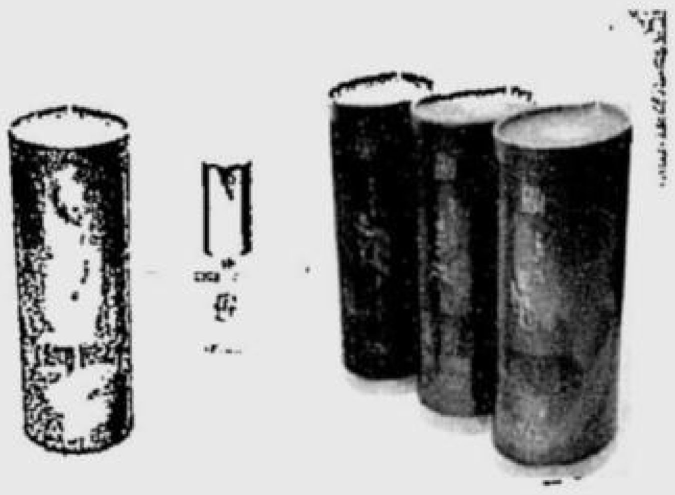
For Kimberly Tiu, creative packaging and a good label design can help boost sales. With built-in security features, it can also help identify genuine products from pirated goods

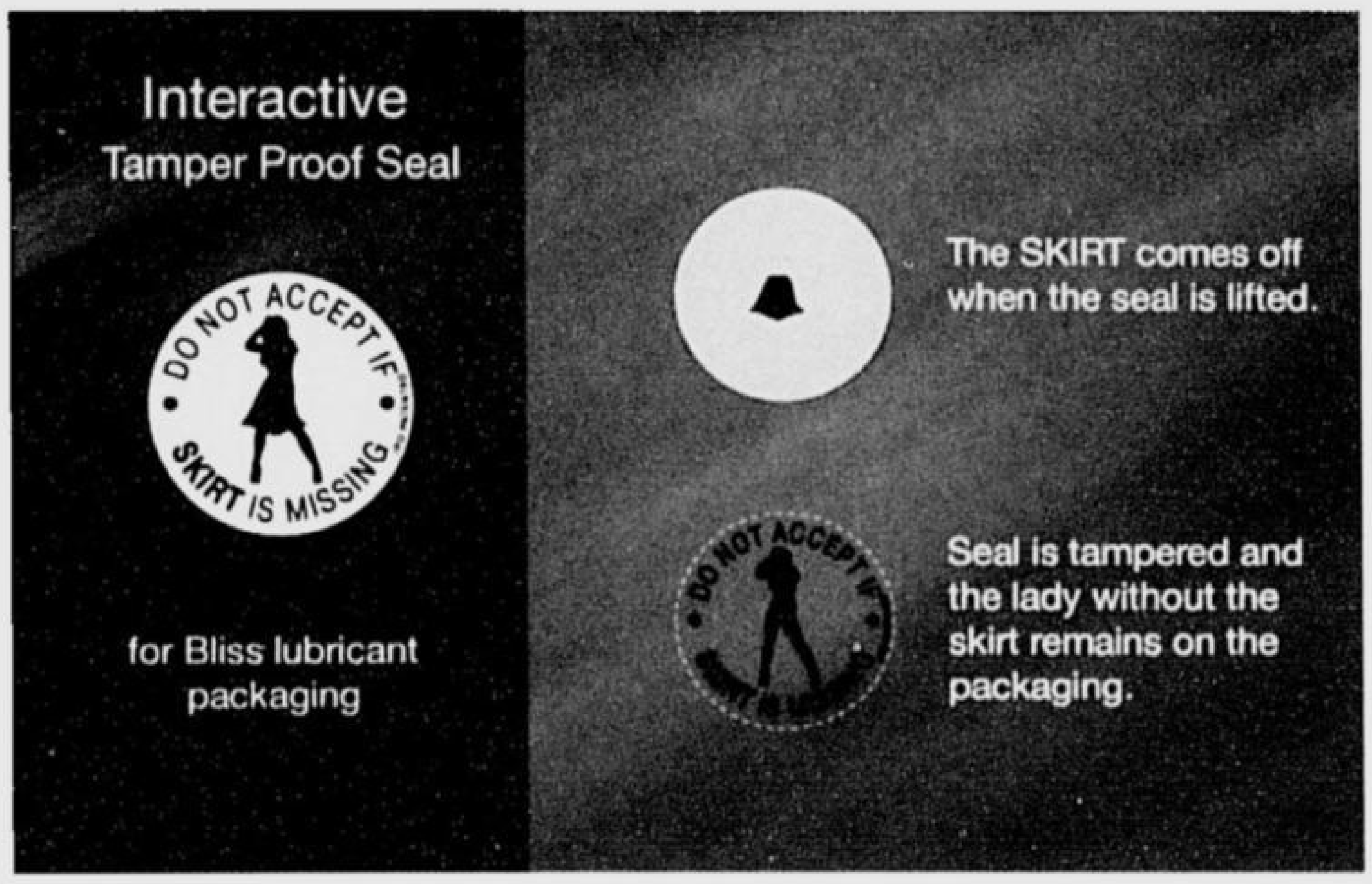
YOU walk into a grocery, take a quick glance at the shelves and pick a branded astringent that promises to make your skin whiter in eight weeks. You head for the cash register and make a purchase.

Sales are supposed to be brisk, but the manufacturer of the whitening astringent soon discovers to his horror that pirates have appropriated his profits. By putting up factories in other Asian countries, copycats have been producing inferior products that use the label and packaging of branded items, down to the font size and graphics.

This has happened many times in the past, and both consumers and manufacturers lose. The fake and inferior product could harm the user, while the legitimate manufacturer loses millions in sales, research and promotions.

Enter Kimberly Tiu, the creative director of the label and packaging design firm Kimbells Pack Inc. Tiu and her father Henry, Kimbells' president, have been recognized globally for creating high-quality and intricately designed labels with built-in security features. The company has received international awards from the Tag and Label Manufacturer Institute in the United States, the Label and Tag Manufacturers Association of Australia, LMAI of India, JFLP of Japan and the Europe-based FINAT.




Interactive
Tamper Proof Seal
DO NOT ACCEPT IF SKIRT IS MISSING
for Bliss lubricant packaging
The SKIRT comes off when the seal is lifted.
Seal is tampered and the lady without the skirt remains on the packaging.

Creativity and profit: Designs for Zen Zest scents (above) and security features in lubricant packaging (right)

Kimbells' complex printing processes have helped diminish the activity of pirates while projecting a total label and packaging solution. The design process has a lot to do with the international recognition as well.

Says Kim: "Whenever I design, I always keep in mind this objective: 'Right function with great design for the target consumer.' When creativity kicks in, the product itself can talk directly to the end consumers."

Kim has always been artistic even as a child. "I've been into art since I was a kid. I would take cartoon designs and trace them and end up adopting different styles."

A four-year Graphic and Visual Design program in Canada helped her become more versatile. "I do my own illustration, photography and layout design. Just like cooking, I need to create ingredients from scratch and put them all together to create a fine dish. Obviously, I would need to know if the person eating it is allergic to certain products. That means I need to do research before I start anything else. A great design comes with the right blend of thorough research and creativity."

A good design, says Kim, "should involve a mix of research—meaning history, current problem, certain demographics, target consumers—and the designer's creativity to project the right message that would stay in the consumer's mind."

Passion, attention to details, observation and inspiration are important factors as well in creating a good design, says this 25-year-old designer. "I care a lot about branding and how it adds up to the prestige of the products. Even if products are for low-end consumers, there's no excuse for sacrificing strong branding."

Kim cites Karim Ashid, an interior, fashion, graphics and industrial designer, who, she says, "knows the essence of human experience and social behavior, while taking into account the product's objective: to make the client earn profit. He's got both the designer and business sides down pat. And that really inspires me in a lot of ways."

An example of her latest design is the packaging she did for Zen Zest scents and cosmetics, a design she describes as "clean and trendy." Unfortunately, she says, a lot of local cosmetic producers opt to copy imported packaging from American and European products. "It's really heartbreaking to see that we tend to copy imported brands, thereby restricting our originality. That's why I educate my clients on how to create their own goals and fit the packaging to the needs of the local market. We really need to have some kind of a design program in this country. In Japan and Korea, everybody seems to have an eye for great design

(continued on page 12)

By Alya B. Honasan

Designing by Feel

For architect Popi Laudico, building a resort—an extended home—means bringing everything that you are into the effort. That's why she keeps her own life multi-faceted

WHEN you realize that she loves to scuba-dive, spends her free weekends in a gorgeous Mindoro house with a drop-dead view of the ocean that she built herself, and is quite comfortable visiting job sites in her bikini, you no longer wonder why architect Popi Laudico is fast becoming known as a builder of resorts. Not just any resort, but delightful ones, built with durable Filipino materials, huge windows, airy spaces and natural light.

"Last year I gave a talk to the graduating batch of architecture students at the University of the Philippines (UP)," says Laudico, "and the best advice I could give them was, 'Don't work all the time.' The architectural profession is a personal service. You need to cultivate yourself, the person doing the service, in order to have a thriving practice. Basically I think I am able to design resorts and vacation homes because they're so much a part of my life, I'm credible when it comes to making it real for other people. I'm just lucky, I guess."

Jim Guiao Punzalan

Popi's handiwork: (top) Beach Front Rooms in Miniloc Island, El Nido Resorts; (above) Popi with Una

Lucky indeed, but just because Laudico's working amidst the sun and sand of Boracay, as she was most of the time when she designed the venerable Friday's resort, doesn't mean she's not taking the business of leisure seriously. "The factors in resort design would be similar to that of house design, only magnified a hundred times, since it's a lodging for guests who would consider it their 'home' for a few days," she explains. "You need to consider safety, comfort and a certain level of luxury that the guests may not normally provide for themselves in their own homes."

Laudico recently finished a house in Terrazas de Punta Fuego, but the 36-year-old's expertise doesn't end there. She also designed the high-end restaurant of her brother Rolando Laudico, Chef Laudico Bistro Filipino, at the Fort, along with another restaurant in Salcedo Village called Apartment 1B. Then there's a spa in Shanghai, a wine bar in Legaspi Village—who knows what's next?

Design was part of Laudico's life growing up, as her mother, designer Yolanda Johnson, was an art scene fixture. Prodigious at drawing as a child, she enrolled in Architecture at the UP, and followed that up with a stint in Los Angeles in 1992. Today, she also does designs for the family business, Soumak Collections, a home accessories hub and a favorite source for some of the city's finest bath linens and beddings.

Like many designers, Laudico can't pinpoint the moment when she decides upon what to build for her client. "After all the factors come in—site inspection, client's input, developer guidelines, etc.—inspiration needs to kick in. I really don't know how it happens, but the visuals start coming in and it's like I'm imagining the building like it already exists. I just go back to the details to work out the kinks. I once read that Mozart could hear the whole concerto in his head before he even hit a key. It's sort of like that. *Kapal ba*? (Am I being presumptuous?)" says Laudico with a loud, infectious laugh.

Neither does Laudico identify a particular style that characterizes her oeuvre. "None of my projects really look alike," she recounts. "But once, a client told me that someone went into a house that we built, and asked them if their architect did this other house, which I also built. My client asked the person if the two houses looked the same. The answer was, 'No, they don't look the same, but they feel the same.' So I guess I don't have a particular 'style,' but a particular 'feel' that people pick up. Maybe it has to do with light and air. There's a lot of passive lighting and

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		7	1		2	6		
	2						9	
8				6				2
3								4
		5				1		
9								6
1				9				8
	8						3	
		3	2		7	4		

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 2/25

Answer to previous puzzle

4	6	3	7	9	8	1	5	2
1	8	7	2	5	4	6	9	3
9	5	2	3	6	1	7	8	4
7	3	5	6	8	9	4	2	1
2	4	1	5	3	7	8	6	9
8	9	6	1	4	2	5	3	7
5	7	9	8	1	3	2	4	6
6	2	4	9	7	5	3	1	8
3	1	8	4	2	6	9	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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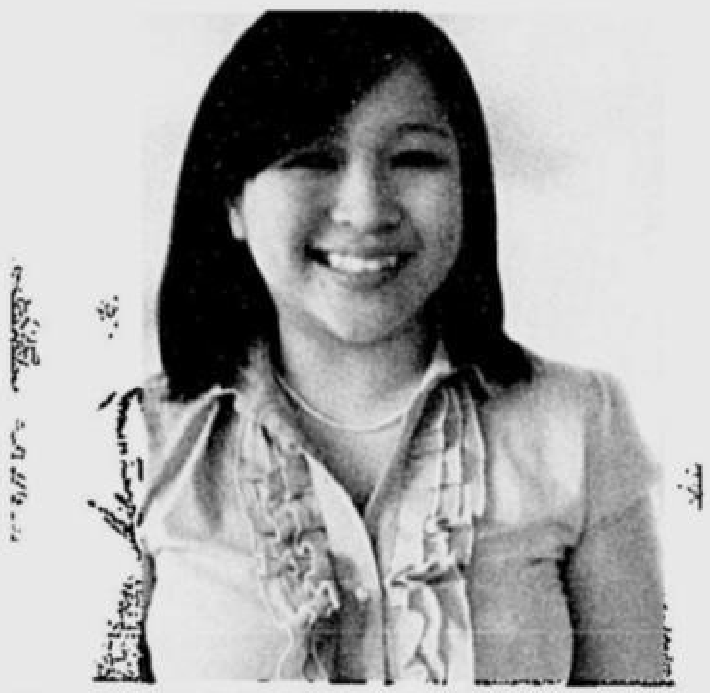
Turning Labels into Lie Detectors (from page 10)



Tiu: Label designs add to a product's prestige

which they know speaks volumes about the product."

Local billboard ads can certainly use more of that dictum, says Kim, noting that size rather than aesthetics seems to be the primary concern of advertisers. She remembers a billboard ad in the US. "You see a cowboy who's smoking on one end of the billboard, and then you see vultures at the other end. There's a little message there that says 'They're waiting.' By looking at that ad, the viewers are invited to make the connection instead of it being spelled out for them. Here, billboards are very 'black and white' in their messages. I know that the ads are targeted for the *masa*, but there's still not much thought put into them."

Another challenge in packaging and designing labels for local products, says Kim, is that clients overlook good design as a crucial factor for sales. Clients tend to look at it as an extra instead of an extension of the product itself that can help boost sales and, in the case of pirates, save them a tidy sum.

"Here in the Philippines, people haggle so much to the point of almost asking for free design," she sighs. "They don't recognize how important a strong design is and how much research, creativity and complex print techniques go into every label to eliminate copycats and pirates in the industry. It can be very degrading."

All those international design awards ought to get Kim's message across soon. That message might as well be, "quality is worth its price." •

Design by Feel (from page 11)

A Popi-designed house in Mindoro

passive cooling in my designs."

"Feel" is paramount to Laudico, who takes very seriously the idea of being well-rounded. In her favorite working clothes of jeans and T-shirts, the ultra-petite Laudico is often mistaken for a high school kid—not a problem at all, she reveals. "It's the best advantage in the world!" she exclaims. "Nobody can ever say no to a little girl!" When she's not driving her big SUV to sites or working on projects, Laudico scuba-dives, does pottery, teaches at the Iyengar Yoga Center Manila, and spends time with the love of her life, a black Labrador named Una (who's 3 years old today).

Which brings us to Laudico's dream projects: "not so much exercises in architectural design, but structures and facilities that would make the world a better place. That's the ultimate responsibility of all architects."

Top of that list is a spectacular, comprehensive Dog Park, "where Una and his friends can gallivant off-leash, safe and completely in their element." The park would include a space for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), of which Laudico is a staunch suppporter. There will also be an Olympic-sized pool for therapy and play for dogs as well as special kids. "I want kids to have a place to go to learn to love animals." That much you can say about Popi Laudico: If it feels good, she's going to build it. •

By Jing Ramos
Photographs by Charles Buenconsejo

Dining, Philippine style, with a modern twist

Anna and Jason Hyatt met in a contemporary setting that sets off Asian cuisine with a sense of luxe and calm. The couple has combined such elements in designing Abaca, their resort restaurant in Mactan, Cebu

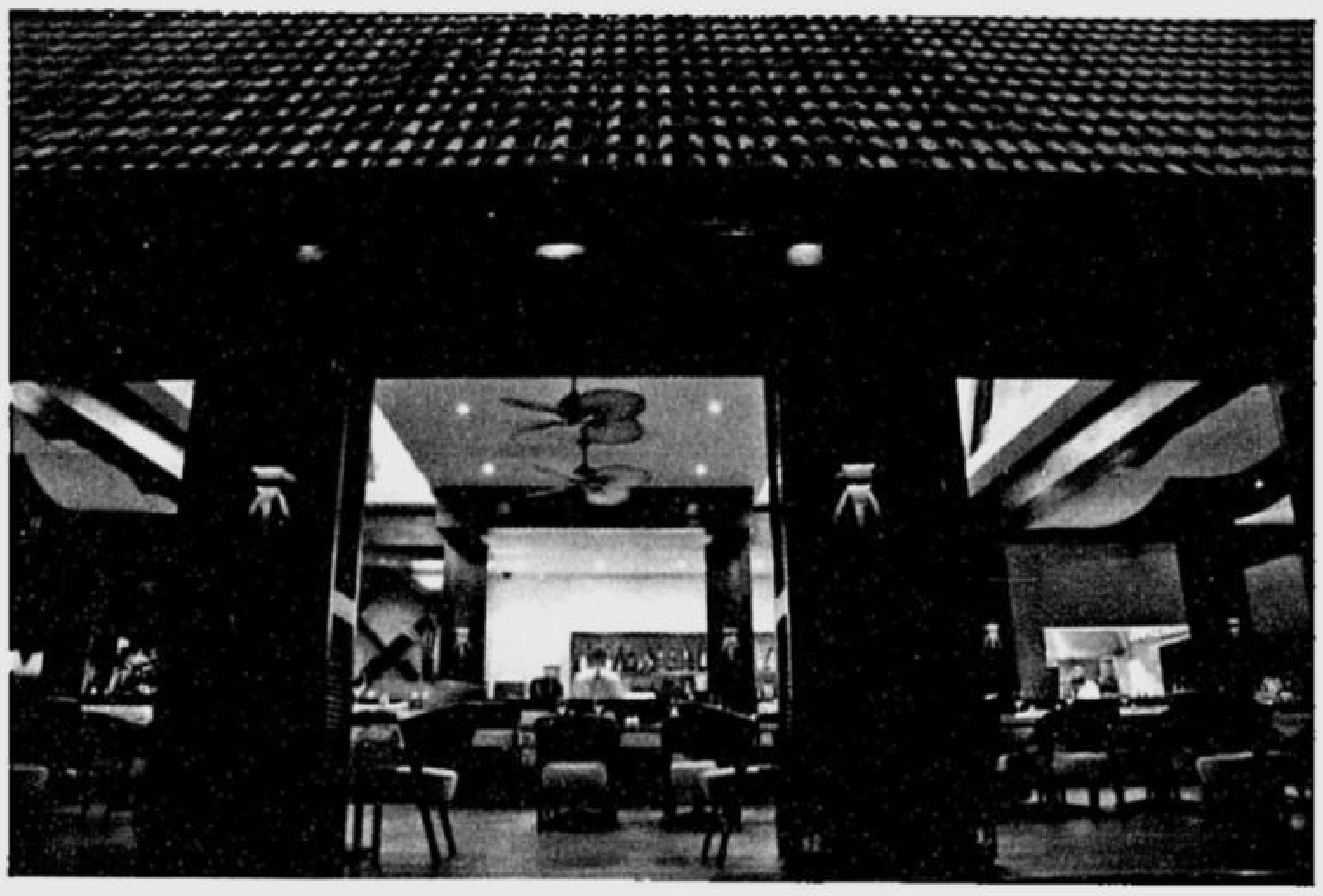
THEIR relationship bloomed in a busy urban landscape, recalls Anna Hyatt. "We met in Hong Kong while he was working at the California Restaurant in Lan Kwai Fong, perhaps Hong Kong's most popular area for a night out and a favorite hangout for well-off locals, expats and tourists." Meanwhile, she had just shifted to sales and marketing at Lan Kwai Fong Entertainments after working for a Japanese fashion company and at the Hong Kong Ritz Carlton.

They started working closely: Anna would organize parties and events and Jason, the entertainment company's executive chef would execute the party fare smoothly. It was during these times that Jason started cultivating his interest in Asian cuisine. The trendsetting duo then began traveling together to Tokyo and all over Asia, with Jason integrating Chinese, Vietnamese and Thai influences into his regular culinary repertoire to give it more punch and verve.

But Anna and Jason Hyatt's partnership went beyond food and entertainment into a restaurant whose concept easily blends both their passions and their milieu. The couple recently put up Abaca, a resort restaurant in Mactan, Cebu whose design reflects its owners' taste and lifestyle.

The two are interested in a concept that creates high impact and wanted a contemporary style in terms of design and cuisine, that is, clear and simple with a strong sense of character coupled with warmth. The restaurant's design is not so much about single precious objects as it is about the overall spirit of the establishment. This attitude is evident and spills over from the dining area into an al fresco setting dominated by a cascading waterfall where guests can sip their cocktails. While the choice of building materials is nothing short of eclectic, the combination of wood, slate, granite and metal is largely harmonious.

Yet for the couple, there are certain rules to follow in creating a well-appointed building and restaurant. "First, the structure has to be good," says Anna. "Then it has to stimulate certain emotions. Eventually it's all about the joy of being there and savoring the mixed elements of light and aroma."



Abaca and its creators Ana and Jason Hyatt (left)

She adds: "What I like most about the restaurant complex is the presence of light with open views on opposite ends of the building. There's even one that looks out into the ocean." The result is easily an exercise in cutting edge architecture enhanced by a thoroughly modern cuisine and a rarefied atmosphere of calm and luxe.

There is also a strong sense of movement in the building structure, with stairs leading up to a mezzanine with a private dining room and an aluminum-lined open kitchen divided by slabs of black granite in matte finish.

Abaca is a concept restaurant with a very specific approach, says Jason. "It's about having a distinctive atmosphere that creates an environment conducive to relaxation, which is now a major component in the total dining experience."

Abaca is located close to the tip of Punta Engaño on Mactan island where resort hotels, luxury condominiums and private beach houses have begun to rise. It is a two-store modern structure with a low-key gated entrance done in metal and stone, which opens to a garden informally planted with palms, eucalyptus, lemon grass and fragrant herbs. The property overlooks Olango Island, the famous bird reserve, which adds to the enchantment of the place.

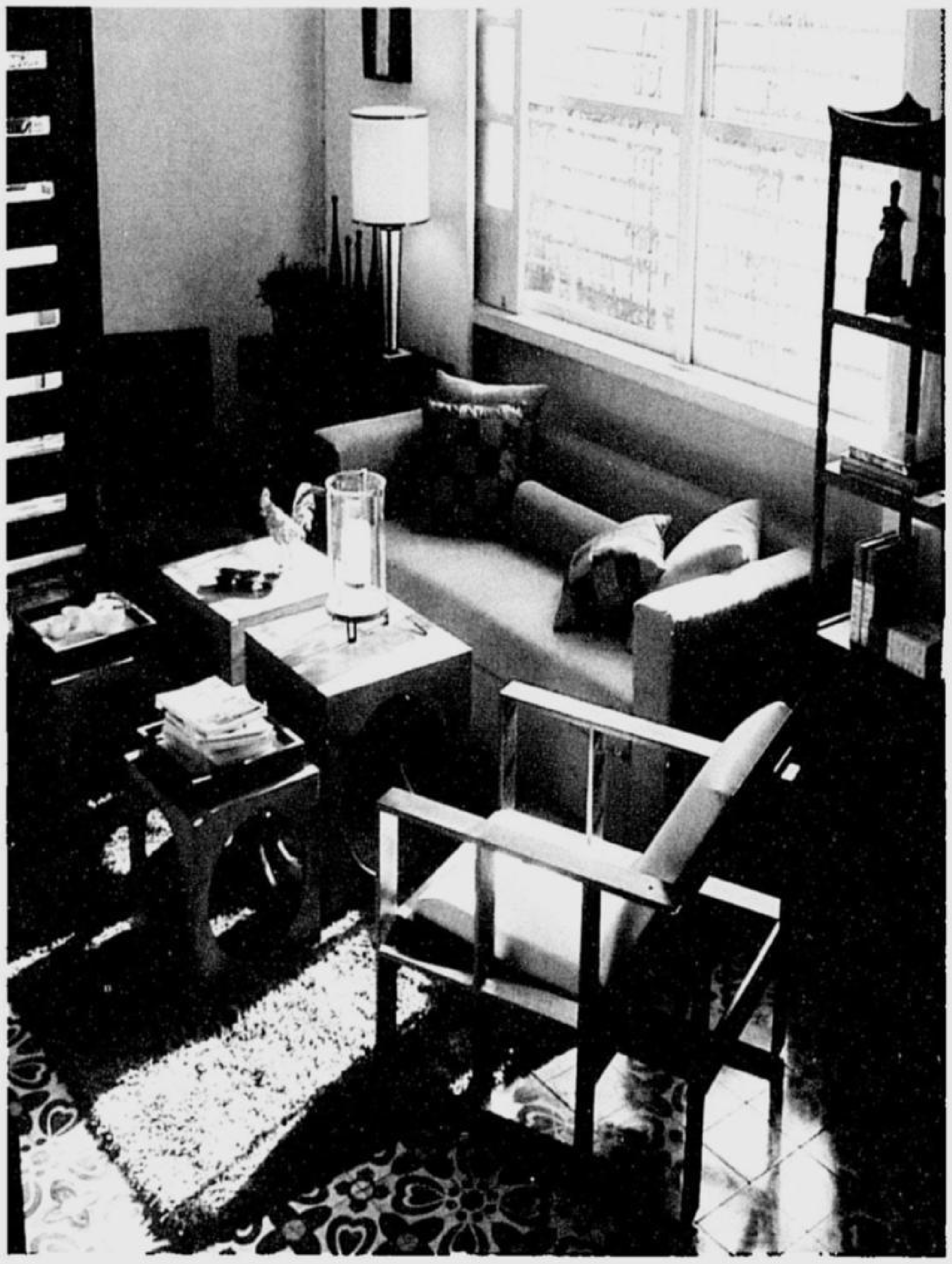
Despite the serene ambiance, the restaurant is in a state of constant flux. Objects like glazed terra cotta jars from Vietnam rise from a narrow pool bordering the entrance. At night the pool is lit in a cool industrial blue.

"We want to do everything properly in Abaca, otherwise it's really not worth doing it at all," says Jason. "Our basic mission is to target a high-end clientele. So we used very expensive materials for the restaurant as well as incredibly authentic ingredients for the cuisine. The end result is dining Philippine-style but with a modern touch. We want to appeal to a global crowd." •

By Rene E. Guatlo
Photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

All fired up by furniture

An eye for detail and masterful workmanship characterize Eric Paras' interior designs



Top: Eric sits on his signature Becarra chair—black wood upholstered in white
Right: Paras' living room done up in his typical clean style

ERIC Paras' atelier and showrooms are located in two adjacent postwar houses inside a small tree-filled compound off F.B. Harrison in Pasay. His neighbors include people in the arts, fashion, and other related fields.

The interior designer, who studied high school at Don Bosco, Tarlac, and took up college at the University of the Philippines, has always been fascinated with building blocks, creating his own designs of imagined houses and structures.

"After graduating in the mid-'80s, the architectural firms were in a deep slump, just like the rest of the country, and we could not find work, even as volunteer apprentices without pay," recounts Eric.

He ended up working for a few months designing products for export, before he decided to set out on his own. Eric topped the Philippine Interior Design Board examinations in 1985.

One of his first interior design projects was for Randolf Viray, president of Vienna Furniture in Angeles City. He later assisted the firm in a successfully staged international furniture show. He has maintained a professional relationship with Vienna Furniture ever since, gaining more and more clients over the years.

From interior design, Eric branched out into manufacturing his own furniture line and constructing homes. His success is in stark contrast to his early days in the profession when he could not afford rent for a separate office space, and when he had to scrimp and save to make sure his workers get paid on time.

Today, he has a full time staff of 10 in his office and 20 skilled workers in his atelier.

Eric is currently working on a project in Guam, and consults for various other local and overseas firms, with a joint venture with a foreign partner under negotiation. He has designed for the likes of JVC Philippines, Inc., and PLDT, among others.

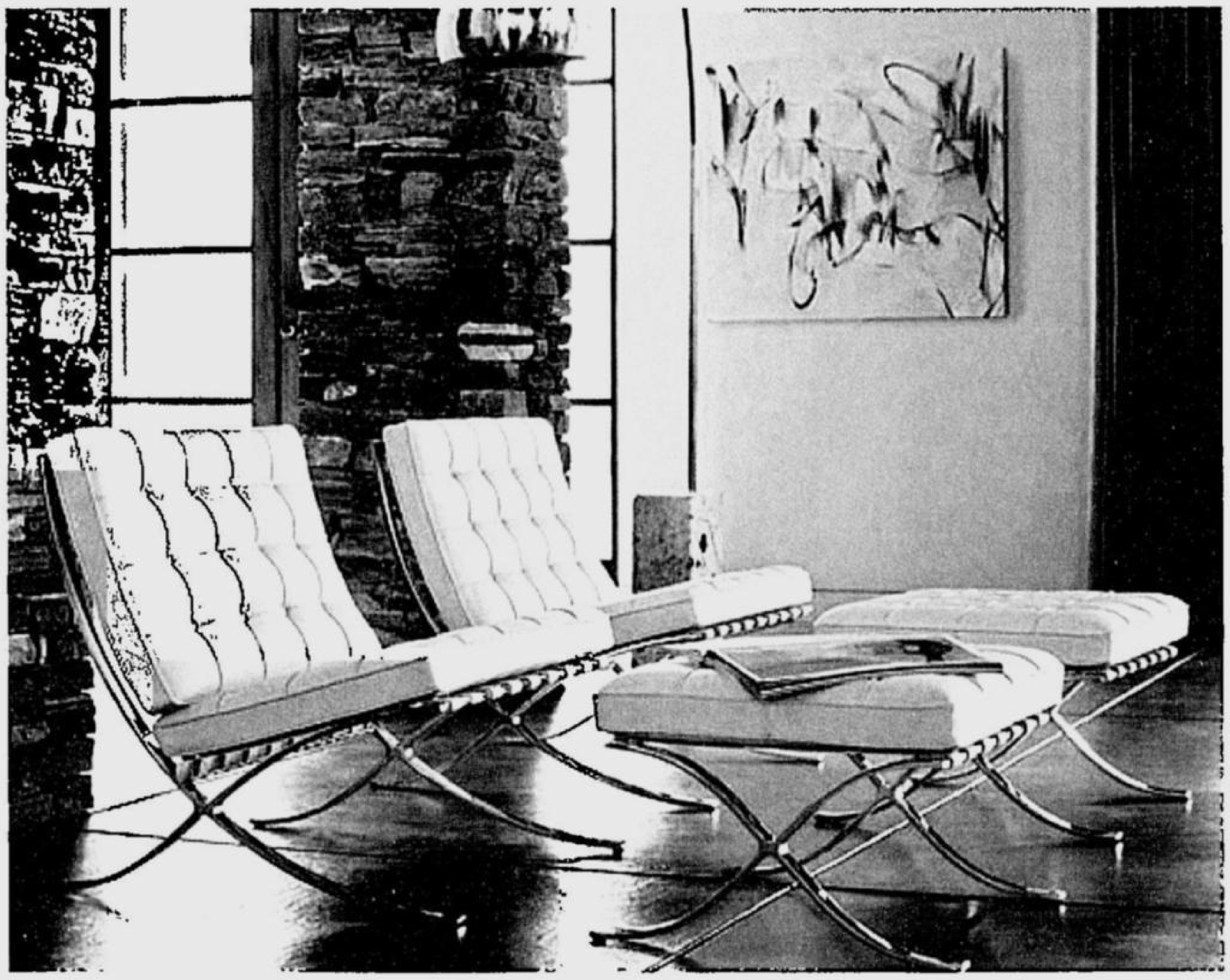
Eric's design is characterized by clean lines, the careful selection of materials, and masterful workmanship. He has a clear eye for detail, with the discipline to edit, pare, and make things look just right. His taste is clearly reflected in his choice of the one piece of furniture he'd spend the most money on: an Eileen Gray Transat Chair (1927) reissued by Andree Putman in the 1980s.

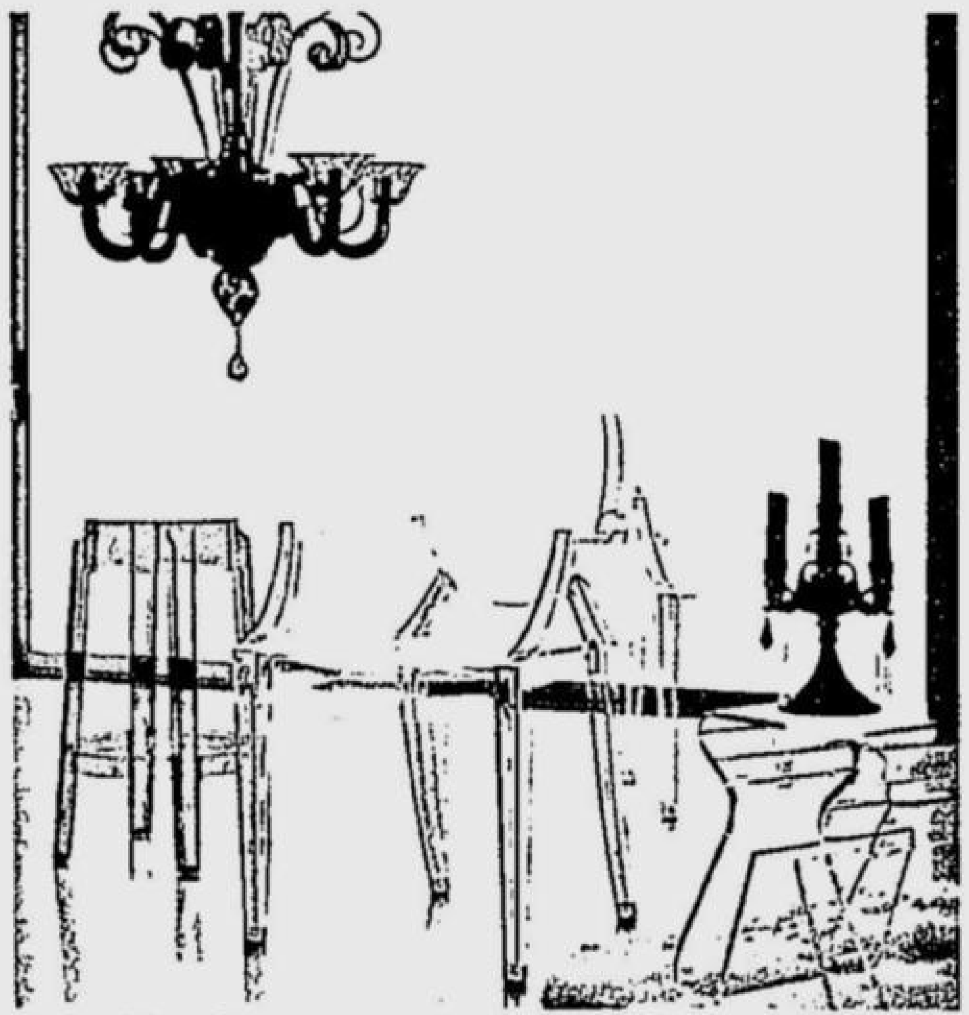
Given the chance, Eric says he'd like to redesign two heritage landmarks at the Rizal Park in Manila: the Luneta Hotel and the Army and Navy Club.

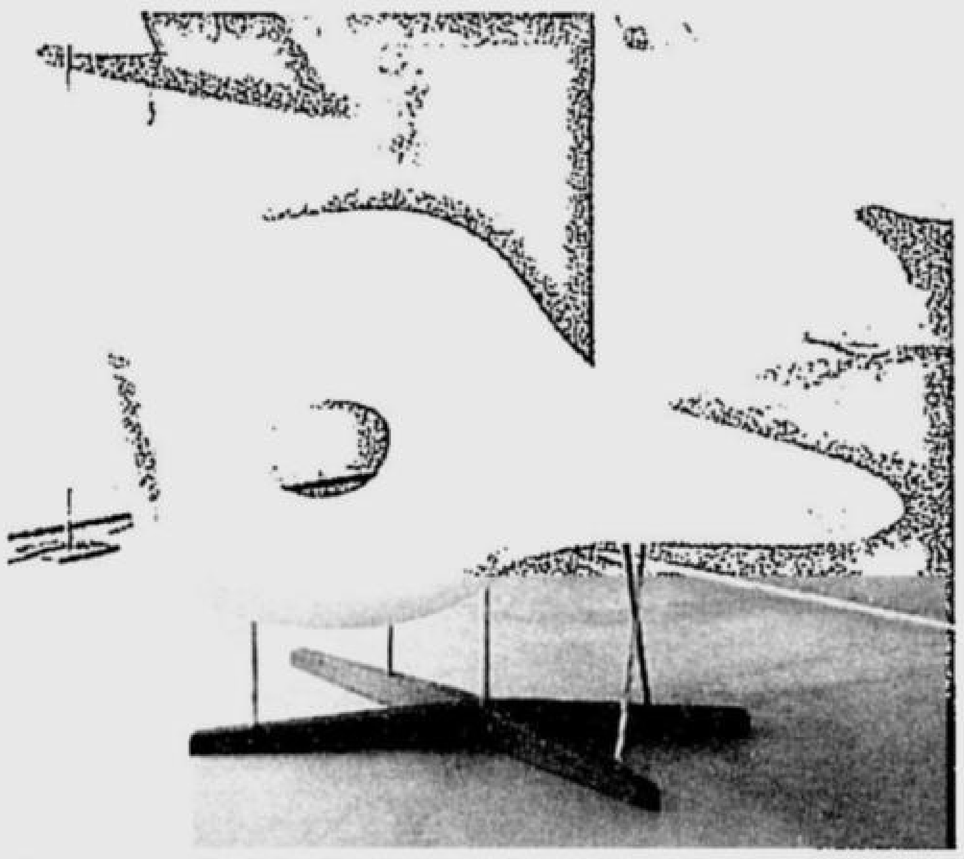
"Both should be redecorated and refurbished so that they can be used again—either as a membership club, a hotel or a bed and breakfast. The architecture is magnificent, and it will take just a little effort and imagination to re-create them into new and useful edifices that will continue to enhance our urban landscape," he observes. •

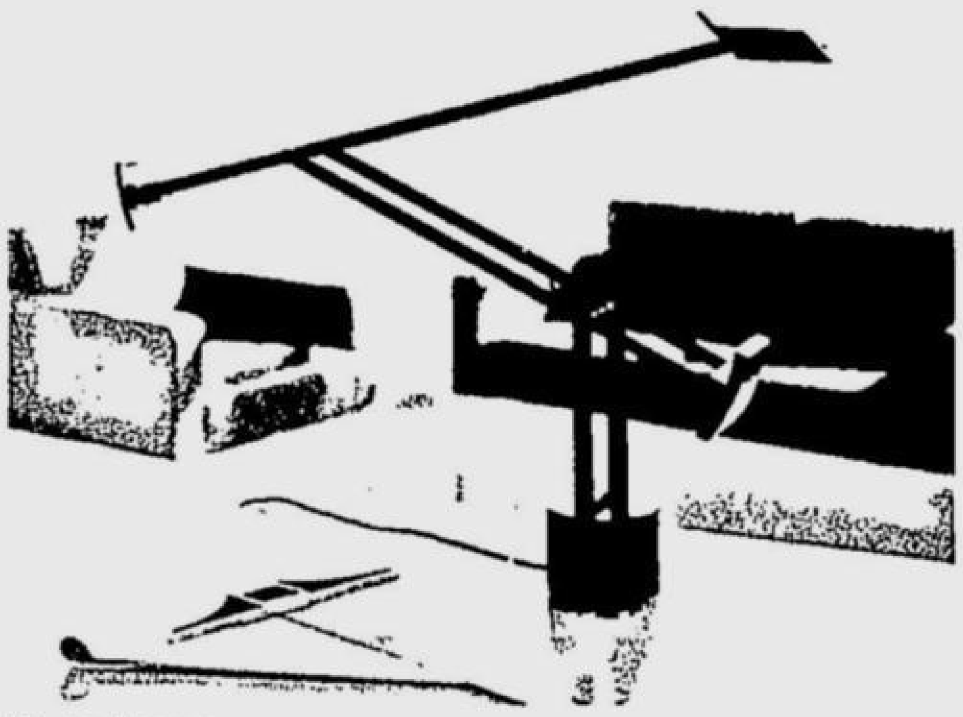
Design Icons

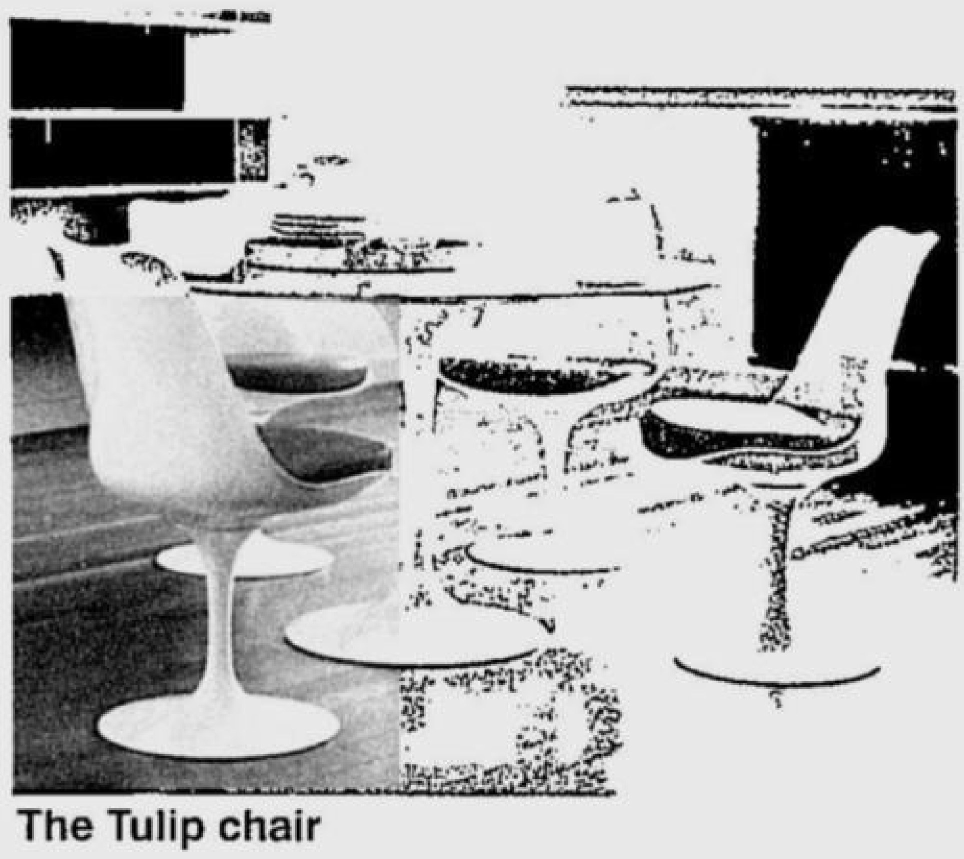
Timeless pieces that exude style in any era


Barcelona chairs


Starck's ghost counter stool and chairs


Eames' chaise lounge


Tizio lamp


The Tulip chair

GOOD things are meant to last. Like timeless classics, some furniture designs have become icons of style and excellent taste and look fashionable in any era. Here are a few of them:

1. Mid-20th century furniture, especially the designs of Le Corbusier, the Eames pair. Characterized by the use of plastics and metal with more traditional materials like wood and leather, the design is an attempt to blend old and new. The creative partnership of Charles and Ray Eames created modern classics from steel, fiberglass and wood-including the Eiffel Tower chair (where the triangular steel base mimics the shape of the Paris landmark), and chaise lounge (essentially a "blob" of fiberglass formed into a comfortable two-seater, with the hole on one side that is both ergonomically essential and a beautiful design element). It's ironic that while the couple wanted to provide beautifully designed furniture using modern materials to the mass market, their products are now some of the most expensive collectibles.

2. The Barcelona chair, by Ludwig Mies van de Rohe, originally made in white leather, was designed for the Barcelona Exposition in 1929. More than 70 years old, the design is timeless, regal but restrained—a happy marriage of tradition and the democratic industrial age. The day bed, made of cherry wood, leather and stainless steel, is a variation of the same theme. Aside from looking good, the chairs and sofas are exquisitely comfortable—made to fit the body at a time when the word ergonomic was at its infancy.

3. Among the post-war batch of designers, Philippe Starck is perhaps one of the best known. Sometimes funny, sometimes whimsical, Starck designs are always well thought out.

4. Among the North European designers, Eero Saarinen is known for streamlined forms, especially the tulip chair and table-quintessential examples of '60s and '70s chic.

5. Light fixtures and other accessories are also favored—the Tolomeo line and the iconic Tizio are but two of the most sought out items, the latter originally issued in matte black, and later reissued in a silver finish for its 30th anniversary edition. **Rene E. Guatlo**

Why not the world?
– Lea Salonga
Dare to ask.
Be an Inquirer.
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